

## **Summer Smades and Ciara Hodgkinson Receive 2020-2021 David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarships**

February 26, 2021 (MANHATTAN, Kan.) –Summer Smades of Leoti, Kansas, a senior in agricultural economics, and Ciara Hodgkinson of Pratt, Kansas, a December graduate in agribusiness, have been awarded the David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarship through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center and the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University.

Summer Smades is a member of Alpha of Clovia and has held several leadership positions, most recently serving as president. She has participated in the K-State Agricultural Economics-Agribusiness Club, K-State Collegiate Cattlewomen and has held several leadership positions in 4-H. Summer is pursuing a CATS minor (Conflict Analysis and Trauma Studies), works in the K-State College of Ag Diversity Programs Office and also works at the Pollution Prevention Institute. In addition, she finds time to volunteer in the community. Summer worked for Scott Cooperative Association in the summer of 2017 and works as a CNA when home on breaks. She will graduate with her bachelor's degree in December 2021 and plans to pursue a master's degree. Summer hopes to work in the ag industry for a cooperative or in a service business supporting cooperatives. The Smades family is affiliated with the Wheatland Electric Cooperative.

Ciara Hodgkinson was an active student after transferring from Pratt Community College to Kansas State University. She served as president of Alpha Zeta and served as secretary and vice president of Collegiate Farm Bureau. She has been involved in many other organizations including K-State Agricultural Economics Club, Gamma Sigma Delta, Block and Bridle and Phi Theta Kappa. In addition, Ciara finds time to volunteer on service projects. She has completed internships with Skyland Grain, Kansas Farm Bureau and also worked with CoBank on an extended internship. Ciara graduated in December 2020 and will start a career with CoBank in 2021. The Hodgkinson family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Kanza Cooperative Association and Skyland Co-op, Inc.

The David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarship has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships since its establishment in 2014. David and Susan Barton came to Kansas State University in 1976 and have been contributing to cooperative education for many years. They are now encouraging the next generation to develop into strong educated leaders.

“The purpose of the David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarship is to encourage the development of leaders in the agribusiness community,” states Professor Brian Briggeman, director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. “It’s also to provide significant financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in educational programs emphasizing these areas of study.”

To be eligible for the David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarship, a student must be either a junior or senior in K-State’s College of Agriculture at the time the scholarship is received and be pursuing a degree in Agribusiness or Agricultural Economics. The recipient must also have strong academic performance and be affiliated as a member or as a child or dependent of a member or employee of a company operating on a cooperative basis in the United States (including agricultural, farm credit, credit union, rural electric or rural telephone cooperatives). Continuing K-State students are encouraged to fill out the K-State scholarship application by March 15<sup>th</sup> to be included in the university scholarship process for the 2021-2022 academic year.

The David and Susan Barton Cooperative Leadership Scholarship was established by donations from cooperative leaders as a thank you to the Bartons for their years of service to cooperatives. Family and friends added to the fund upon David’s retirement from the university. David and Susan Barton matched more than twice the amount of each contribution made to the fund to further benefit outstanding students at Kansas State University. “Additional contributions by those who want to honor David and Susan Barton and support the purposes of the scholarship are welcome,” Dr. Briggeman said. They should be made payable to “KSU Foundation/Barton” and sent to the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, Kansas State University, Department of Agricultural Economics, 342 Waters Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506.

### **About the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center**

The Arthur Capper Cooperative Center provides research-based information, education and assistance to people with and interested in cooperative businesses, including cooperative members, directors, managers and employees. The Center also works with students and faculty at educational institutions, the general public and public officials as well as owners, directors, managers and employees of agribusinesses. Further information can be obtained about this scholarship or about establishing additional scholarships by emailing Brian Briggeman at [bbrigg@ksu.edu](mailto:bbrigg@ksu.edu) or visiting the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center website at <http://acc.k-state.edu/>.

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K-State Research and Extension is a short name for the Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, a program designed to generate and distribute useful knowledge for the well-being of Kansans. Supported by county, state, federal and private funds, the program has county extension offices, experiment fields, area extension offices and regional research centers statewide. Its headquarters is on the K-State campus in Manhattan. For more information, visit [www.ksre.ksu.edu](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu)

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Photos: Summer Smades and Ciara Hodgkinson