

Riley Buss, Caitlyn Craig, MiKayla Deters, Alan Hinds, Luke Kaiser, Nicki Kirchhoff, Aaron Maxwell, Thomas Smith, Shymel Townes and Kaitlyn Urban Receive 2020-2021 CHS Foundation Scholarship Awards

February 26, 2021 (MANHATTAN, Kan.) – MiKayla Deters of Fairview, Kansas, a senior in agribusiness; Alan Hinds of Lawrence, Kansas, a senior in agricultural economics; Luke Kaiser of Park, Kansas, a junior in agricultural economics; Nicki Kirchhoff of Hardy, Nebraska, a junior in agribusiness; Thomas Smith of Windom, Kansas, a senior in agricultural economics and global food systems leadership; Shymel Townes of Wichita, Kansas, a junior in agricultural economics; and Kaitlyn Urban of Louisburg, Kansas, a junior in agribusiness; have each been awarded a CHS Foundation Scholarship through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center and the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University. Three freshmen were also awarded CHS Foundation Scholarships through the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University: Caitlyn Craig of Quenemo, Kansas, a freshman in animal science; Riley Buss of Grantville, Kansas, a freshman in agricultural economics; and Aaron Maxwell of Paola, Kansas, a freshman in agribusiness.

MiKayla Deters is a first generation college student. She is actively involved on campus and has served in leadership positions for Sigma Alpha, NAMA and Silver Key. MiKayla was selected as a Cargill Fellow, a Risk Management Fellow and completed internships with John Deere and Cargill. She also participated in an international study abroad experience to Europe. In addition to working as a student employee for the K-State Libraries, MiKayla finds time to volunteer on campus and with Catholic Charities. Upon graduation in May 2021, she plans to pursue a career in finance, marketing or pricing. The Deters family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Ag Partners Cooperative, Berwick Cooperative Oil and Brown-Atchison Electric Cooperative.

Alan Hinds is actively involved in student government, including serving as a College of Agriculture senator. He also serves as a director for the American Quarter Horse Association. Alan is involved with FFA, K-State Rodeo, K-State Collegiate Farm Bureau and is an associate member counselor for Delta Chi. In addition, he completed an internship with the Kansas Department of Agriculture. Upon graduation in May 2021, Alan plans to pursue a master's degree in agricultural economics, followed by a dual JD/PhD in economics. Ultimately, he plans to work as an agricultural policy economist. The Hinds family is affiliated with the FreeState Electric Cooperative.

Luke Kaiser is involved with the KSU Collegiate Cattlemen's Club and the K-State Agricultural Economics-Agribusiness Club. He works as a ranch hand for the MKS Cattle Company and also works for the family farm while going to school. Luke was scheduled to go to China on an international study experience but it was canceled due to COVID-19. Upon graduation in May 2022, Luke plans to return to work on the family farm and ranch in Northwest Kansas. The Kaiser family is affiliated with Farm Credit of Western Kansas.

Nicki Kirchhoff is a member of the K-State Agricultural Economics-Agribusiness Club, the K-State Student Officials Organization and the Student Athletic Sales Advisory Committee. While going to school, she officiates for intramural and KSHSAA sporting events and works on the family farm. In addition, Nicki completed an internship with Frontier Farm Credit. Upon graduation in May 2022, Nicki hopes to work as a farm credit loan officer. The Kirchhoff family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Aurora Cooperative, CVA and Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative.

Thomas Smith is actively involved in student government, including serving as a College of Agriculture senator. He also served in leadership roles on the College of Agriculture Student Council and for FarmHouse Fraternity, most recently serving as president. Thomas gained additional leadership experience by participating on the K-State Open House Core Committee. While going to school, he works as a student recruitment data intern for the College of Agriculture. Upon graduation in May 2021, Thomas plans to pursue a career using his degree with the ultimate goal of returning to be part of the family farm. The Smith family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Genex Cooperative and MKC.

Shymel Townes is actively involved on campus and has served in leadership positions in MANRRS, Black Student Union and Silver Key. In addition, he serves on the student advisory board for Powercat Financial Counseling Services. Shymel forecasted and budgeted the finances for a regional conference for 700 people as the Big 12 Committee Finance Chair for BSU. He volunteers in the community and works part-time for the K-State Division of Financial Services while going to school. Upon graduation in 2022, Shymel plans to pursue a career in farm credit as a loan officer.

Kaitlyn Urban serves as a K-State College of Agriculture Ambassador. In addition, she has served as a Sorority and Fraternity Life Ambassador and Vice President Chapter Relations for Alpha Chi Omega. Kaitlyn is also a member of the K-State Agricultural Economics-Agribusiness Club. Upon graduation in May 2022, she plans to go to graduate school and then hopes to work in marketing/sales, commodity trading or agricultural law. The Urban family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: Central Prairie Co-op and Skyland Co-op.

“The CHS Foundation Scholarships are one way the CHS Foundation is giving back to future agricultural leaders at Kansas State University,” states Professor Brian Briggeman, director of the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. The CHS Foundation, funded by gifts from CHS Inc., the nation’s leading farmer-owned cooperative, has awarded over \$178,000 in scholarships through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University since 2006.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the students must be U.S. citizens or legal residents properly enrolled as a freshman, sophomore, junior or senior during the current academic year majoring in an agriculture-focused or ag-related STEM undergraduate program. Recipients must demonstrate academic ability and exhibit leadership qualities through the university, community or ag industry involvement. Priority is given to students demonstrating an interest in agriculture-based cooperatives. Continuing K-State students are encouraged to fill out the K-State scholarship application by March 15th to be included in the university scholarship process for the 2021-2022 academic year.

The awarding of the CHS Foundation Scholarships is coordinated through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center. "Additional contributions by those who want to support the purposes of cooperative scholarships are welcome," Dr. Briggeman said. They should be made payable to "KSU Foundation/ACCC" and sent to the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, Department of Agricultural Economics, 305 Waters Hall, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas. 66506.

About CHS Foundation

The CHS Foundation, funded by charitable gifts from CHS Inc., is focused on developing agriculture leaders for life-long success. Together with our partners, we are advancing understanding of the ag cooperative business model, cultivating student success through university partnerships, and growing high impact ag leadership programs. For more information on our programs, visit chsfoundation.org.

About the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center

The ACCC 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 contacting Brian Briggeman at the same address or e-mailing, bbrigg@ksu.edu.

###

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. More information is available at www.ksre.ksu.edu.

Story by: Arthur Capper Cooperative Center
Department of Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University
K-State Research & Extension News

Photos: MiKayla Deters, Alan Hinds, Luke Kaiser, Nicki Kirchhoff, Thomas Smith, Shymel Townes and Kaitlyn Urban