

Madeline Drake Receives 2024-2025 Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship

November 20, 2024 (MANHATTAN, Kan.) – Madeline Drake of Preston, Kansas, a junior majoring in agricultural communications at Kansas State University, has been awarded the Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship through the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center and the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University.

Madeline Drake serves as a College of Agriculture Ambassador and is active in Collegiate Farm Bureau and Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow. She participated in and completed the Disney College Program and also completed an internship with Kanza Cooperative Association. Her connection to cooperatives is strong as her dad worked as a location manager and both grandfathers have been board members for Kanza Co-op. Madeline is gaining additional work skills at the Kansas State University Printing and Bookstore while maintaining high academic standards as she pursues her degree. She hopes to work for a cooperative or agribusiness in communications upon graduation in December 2025. The Drake family is affiliated with the following cooperatives: American AgCredit and Kanza Cooperative Association.

The Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship has awarded \$124,000 in scholarships since its establishment in 2005. “The scholarship was established to honor and perpetuate the memory of the contribution of Otis and the late Mary Lee Molz and to encourage an interest in the formation, operation, management, leadership and economics of and participation in all types of cooperatives, including agricultural, financial, electric, telephone, housing and consumer cooperatives,” 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 Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative 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 affiliated as a member or as a child or dependent of a member of a Kansas agricultural marketing, supply or service cooperative that is a member of the Kansas Cooperative Council. Continuing K-State students are encouraged to fill out the K-State scholarship application to be included in the university scholarship process for the 2025-2026 academic year.

The Otis and Mary Lee Molz Cooperative Scholarship is funded by contributions made to the KSU Foundation. Contributions have been made by Otis and the late Mary Lee Molz, their family and friends

in the cooperative community. “Additional contributions by those who want to honor Otis and the late Mary Lee Molz and support the purposes of the scholarship are welcome,” Dr. Briggeman said. They should be made payable to “KSU Foundation/Molz” and sent to the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center, Kansas State University, Department of Agricultural Economics, 305 Waters Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506.

About the Arthur Capper Cooperative Center

The Arthur Capper Cooperative Center is a public-private partnership in the Kansas State University Department of Agricultural Economics that 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. <http://acc.k-state.edu/>

Photo caption: Madeline Drake and Dr. Brian Briggeman, KSU AGECE Professor and ACCC Director