

2026 SWSS Endowment Enrichment Scholarship Information Page

Purpose: Provide an opportunity for SWSS graduate and undergraduate students to participate in a week-long educational experience with Industry or Academia.

Student Application Deadline: Gary Schwarzlose (gary.schwarzlose@bayer.com) must receive applications by **Friday May 8, 2026**. Please put “SWSS Endowment Enrichment Scholarship Application” in subject line. Submission of all information into a single PDF file is preferred but not required.

Description of Scholarship: Scholarship winners will have a week-long educational experience of their choosing from the list of potential Hosts. Opportunities include learning among many areas of weed science including experiences from the field to the lab, in research or extension, and with industry or academia. Winners will be provided \$1500 from the SWSS Endowment Foundation to pay for expenses incurred during their experience.

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. The applicant must be an undergraduate or graduate student in good academic standing enrolled in a degree program (B.S., M.S., or Ph.D.) at an accredited college or university in the southern region.
2. Graduate students must be actively conducting, or have recently finished, research in the area of weed science. Undergraduates must document their interest in the area of weed science.
3. **The applicant must be a member of the SWSS at the time of application.**
4. **The winners of the Endowment Enrichment Scholarships must present a 15-minute paper and submit an abstract about their experience at the SWSS annual meeting following their experience. Specifics will be provided directly to winners.**

Application Procedure:

1. Complete application form
2. Include cover letter describing applicants’ interest in weed science and the scholarship (< 1 page).
3. Include brief resume or CV summary highlighting recent relevant experiences (< 1 page).
4. Include two letters of support, one of which must be from the student’s graduate or major advisor.
5. Include academic transcripts (unofficial copy is acceptable).
6. Email application information to Gary Schwarzlose (gary.schwarzlose@bayer.com) by Friday May 8, 2026, with “SWSS Endowment Enrichment Scholarship” in subject line.

Selection Criteria and Process:

Applicants will be evaluated based on contribution of research to the discipline of weed science and to the SWSS objectives, academic record and scholarly achievements, and potential contributions to the future of weed science. Submitted applications will be distributed to the Endowment Board members where each member of the committee evaluates and ranks the applicants as determined by the application form and the supporting documents. Judging will not be done by individuals with a personal or advisory affiliation with an applicant.

Timeline:

Students must submit applications by Friday May 8, 2026.

The scholarship selection process will be completed by Friday May 22, 2026.

All applicants and selected sponsors will be notified during the week of May 25, 2026.

Scholarship winners and their host will determine the date in 2026 for the experience to occur.

The Endowment Board will function as a liaison between the scholarship winners and their hosts throughout the process.

Revising Guidelines or Procedures:

The Endowment Board can make changes or revisions to the scholarship guidelines and operating procedures as more experience is obtained. The Board welcomes suggestions from the membership on methods to improve this experience for students.

**SWSS Endowment Enrichment Scholarship
Application Form**

1. Applicant Name:

2. Selection of Host for the SWSS Endowment Experience:

a. 1st Choice:

b. 2nd Choice:

c. 3rd Choice:

3. Cover Letter (max 1 page)

4. Include brief resume or CV summary highlighting recent relevant experiences (max 1 page)

5. Include two letters of support, one of which must be from your academic advisor

6. Academic Transcript (official transcripts NOT required)

Institution	Academic / Industry	Host	Location	Experience
Clemson University	Academic	Mike Marshall Matthew Cuttulle	Charleston, SC	Vegetable and row crop research
LSU	Academic	Connor Webster	Baton Rouge, LA	Rice research and extension.
Mississippi State University	Academic	Darrin Dodds	Starkville, MS	See all aspects of MS crop production as well as potentially see UAV's, visit with our genomics folks, and visit our virtual reality cave located on campus.
Mississippi State University	Academic	Te-Ming (Paul) Tseng	Starkville, MS	Research focused on studying the physiology of herbicide resistance and characterizing the genetic basis of competitive traits in weeds using an interdisciplinary approach including molecular biology, cell biology, genetics, remote sensing, biochemistry, pathology, and agronomy. Identifying molecular mechanisms of resistance to various herbicide modes of action. Remote sensing to identify weed species and quantify herbicide crop injury.
Oklahoma State University	Academic	Jennifer Dudak Maxwell Smith	Stillwater, OK Altus, OK	Student will spend time with academics and industry in OK. Topic areas will include: learning about the unique irrigation system in Altus, we refer to as the irrigation district, and how this system impacts cotton weed management and production practices; learning about peanut weed management and production practices in OK ; learning more about research/extension on main campus; spending time with industry reps to learn more about grain sorghum, corn, and soybean trials
Texas A&M University	Academic	Muthu Bagavathiannan	College Station, TX	Applicant will gain exposure to IWM and precision ag research
University of Arkansas	Academic	Bob Scott	Little Rock, AR Fayetteville, AR	Research Station operations, Tour of State Cooperative Extension Service Facilities and Activities
University of Georgia	Academic	Nicholas Basinger Tim Grey Nick Shay Taylor Randell Singleton Camp Hand	Tifton, GA Athens, GA	Ability to see IWM, Sustainability, Cotton Agronomy, Grains Agronomy, and pesticide fate. I think this could be a great opportunity to see a wide range of PIs from extension and research to administration and teaching.

Institution	Academic / Industry	Host	Location	Experience
Virginia Tech	Academic	Shawn Askew	Blacksburg, VA	<p>Students will take a turf and ornamentals tour where they will visit high-end golf courses, professional athletics venues, and a wide range of industry sponsors that support the industry. The tour will take students across the state of Virginia from our Virginia Tech campus in the western mountains to coastal research stations at Virginia Beach. We would show case research spanning lasers, machine-vision sprayers, and spray drones and demonstrate industry leading equipment from sod-production farms to lawn-care operations.</p>

Institution	Academic / Industry	Host	Location	Experience
BASF Corporation (Crop Protection)	Industry	Ingo Meiners	Raleigh, NC	BASF can offer a student an experience that would include a day or two at RTP with R&D/Tech Service teams, providing insights into cutting-edge agricultural research, followed by visits to a NC research farm to observe practical applications and field trials. Additionally, the student will have the chance to ride along with a technical service representative and/or business sales representative, gaining a comprehensive understanding of product application and customer support in the agricultural industry. This experience will provide valuable insights into agricultural research, product development, and real-world applications, helping the student gain practical knowledge and enhance their understanding of the agricultural industry and its various career paths.
Bayer CropScience	Industry	Gary Schwarzlose Greg Steele John Everitt	Texas Tour	Research and demonstration trials in multiple crops and disciplines; field tours; operation on an industry research and demonstration facility. Exposure to Trait and Crop Protection R&D, Development, and Technical Services aspects of the organization. Gain experience with field trials, University and customer interaction, and corporate activities.
Bayer CropScience	Industry	Anne Mwaniki	Chesterfield / Creve Coeur	Research and demonstration trials in multiple crops and disciplines; field tours; operation on an industry research and demonstration facility. Exposure to Trait and Crop Protection R&D, Development, and Technical Services aspects of the organization. Gain experience with field trials, University and customer interaction, and corporate activities.
Corteva Agriscience	Industry	Dr. Hunter Perry Dr. Drew Ellis	Delta	Research and demonstration trials in multiple crops and disciplines. View operation on an industry research and demonstration facility. View and discuss plot work and sales support with the local team. Gain experience with field trials, University and customer interaction, and corporate activities.
Diligence Technologies	Industry	Tim Adcock	Jackson, TN	Ins and outs of contract research

Institution	Academic / Industry	Host	Location	Experience
FMC	Industry	Drs. Matthew Wiggins Chris Leon Lawson Pries Drake Copeland Annu Kumari Aman Chandi Chris Rouse Dickie Edmond	AR & PA	First day visit with local Technical Service Managers and Field Development with FMC. View and discuss plot work and sales support with the local team in the Midsouth (Northeast Arkansas area). Travel to Philadelphia, PA to visit the FMC Stine Research Center in Newark, DE. While at Stine, the participant would get to visit with a variety of hosts and topics, including Herbicide, Fungicide, and Insecticide Discovery. Sample management and high-throughput screening. Product support and renewal. Biological statistics and formulations. The participant would then go visit FMC Global Headquarters in Philadelphia to visit with US and North American regulatory and registrations, product development, sales and marketing.
Syngenta	Industry	Jason Adams	Vero Beach, FL	Research and Demonstration
Syngenta	Industry	Pete Eure	Greensboro, NC	Visit with a variety of teams (i.e. Marketing, Formulations, Product Biology, Application Technology, Regulatory, etc) and then visit our field development research site in NC as well as our local agronomist and sales team.
Syngenta	Industry	Scott Moore	Monroe, LA	Nematodes and pest management (insect, disease, and weeds) in cotton, soybean, corn, and rice.