



SJFB Foundation for Agricultural Education



Gary Simas Agricultural Scholarship

2017 Application

Due: March 17, 2017

Gary Simas died in May of 2006, at the age of 57, far too soon for a man who had so much left to give. And, because of his incredible generosity, friends and family established this memorial scholarship in his name.

Appreciation for land and farming was developed by spending his life in this great valley, from Livingston to Escalon, from Riverbank to Modesto. Although the Vietnam War pulled Gary away from his home, upon his return, he knew what he wanted and needed to do. He pursued his education at California State University Chico, majoring in Agronomy.

Respected as a designer, innovator and businessman in the agricultural irrigation community, Gary was one of the foremost experts in drip irrigation application for both row and permanent crops, portable irrigation systems, filtration systems, and pumping stations, as well as a consultant in crop cultivation and production. After working for Rain for Rent, Golden State Irrigation Services, he and his longtime friend, Jim Clare, formed Pacific Southwest Irrigation Corporation in Stockton. He was tireless in his work and devotion to his clients' interests and a fixture in their operation. Gary was characterized as "the standard by which his peers measure their work."

Yet, Gary was a special man for many reasons. Not only a salesman with integrity and a true man of his word, he had a charismatic gift for making friends with many of his customers and vendors. Gary had a special love for his friends and family, often surpassing the definition of 'friend' and 'colleague'. As an on-going tribute to Gary, friends, family, and colleagues have established this memorial scholarship to honor his exceptional life.

DESCRIPTION

Scholarships awarded to high school seniors based on career goals, demonstrated leadership abilities in agriculture, and a perceived ability to contribute to and succeed in an agriculture-related field. Academic performance will be considered.

ELIGIBILITY

To apply for this scholarship, the following criteria must be met. You must:

- be a student pursuing a two- or four-year degree in agronomy or related crop production, or closely related fields. (See list below)
 - Agricultural Business
 - Agricultural Science
 - Agricultural Systems Management
 - Animal Science
 - BioResource and Agricultural Engineering
 - Crop Science
 - Dairy Science
 - Earth Sciences
 - Environmental Horticultural Science
 - Environmental Management and Protection
 - Food Science
 - Forestry and Natural Resources
 - Fruit Science
 - Nutrition
 - Plant Protection Service
 - Recreation Administration
 - Soil Science
 - Wine and Viticulture
- be a high school senior graduating in 2016.
- be a resident of California and reside in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, or Merced Counties.

AWARDS

Three awards are attached to this scholarship:

- Two \$500 scholarships for two students who will be attending Modesto Junior College or Delta Community College in the fall of 2017.
- One \$1,000 scholarship for a student who will be attending a four-year college or university in the fall of 2017.

Each award will be forwarded to the winning student's designated college or university upon acceptance into an agriculture-related field of study.

REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for this scholarship, you must submit:

- the completed application form. (See attached)
- two letters of recommendation. (One letter from a school faculty member or counselor and one from an individual who is in an agriculture-related business. These letters should address the student's work ethic and character, as well as any other pertinent information.)
- a personal statement that reflects your interest in agriculture and the qualities that you have that reflect why you would be a candidate for this scholarship. (Two-page limit.)
- Due to the Farm Bureau office no later than March 17, 2017. The SJFB 103rd Annual Meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 12th, 2017. Scholarship recipients are advised to attend.

TO APPLY

Send the completed application form, reference letters (2), and essay to:

San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation
Attn: Gary Simas Agricultural Scholarship
3290 Ad Art Road
Stockton, CA 95215

Gary Simas Agricultural 2017 Scholarship Application

APPLICATION:

Name _____
last first middle

Home Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Counselor's Name _____

Current GPA _____ Counselor's Signature _____
(Record your GPA and have your counselor sign in the space provided above.)

Personal Statement: Describe your reasons for wanting to pursue a college education in an agriculture-related field. (NOTE: Please type or write your response of no more than two pages, and attach it to this application. Applications that are illegible will be disqualified.)

Involvement: Include below any involvement in the school, community, or agriculture-related programs that you have had during your four years of high school.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES	COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Community College, College, or University: List below the schools to which you have applied or have been accepted, for the fall of 2016.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Attach the completed application, your personal statement, and two recommendations, and mail to the address shown on the first page of this packet

