

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AIARD Launches Future Leaders Scholarship Fund

Washington, DC. June 1, 2015 – The Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development (AIARD) announced today the establishment of a scholarship fund to support the advanced education of outstanding students in the field of international agriculture and rural development.

The fund is an innovative partnership of the private sector, universities, non-government organizations, and individuals. Led by long-time supporter, Bill Guyton, initial donors include The University of Missouri, Texas A&M University, The Pennsylvania State University, and The World Cocoa Foundation. Additional universities, organizations and private sector partners are encouraged to contribute.

In fitting with the conference theme of “*Fostering Innovation in International Agriculture and Rural Development*,” the announcement was made at AIARD’s 51st Annual Conference and 2015 Future Leaders Forum in Washington, D.C.

“Supporting the next generation of agricultural leaders is essential for long-term sustainable development and food security worldwide” said Deanna Behring, AIARD President. “On behalf of AIARD, I’m honored to support this noteworthy cause.”

The Future Leaders Forum is conducted annually by AIARD as part of its Annual Conference and has been made possible through the support of USAID, USDA, land-grant and other U.S. universities, and private sector companies. The Future Leaders Forum provides an opportunity for up to 12 students, selected through a competitive process, to attend the AIARD Annual Conference and interact with dozens of Washington, DC based organizations.

This new fund will award at least one small competitive scholarship from the Future Leaders Forum. A team of senior members within the AIARD Executive Board will select the recipients, based on the criteria of leadership skills, academic excellence and fields of specialty of the candidates. Recipients of these scholarships will be tackling the global food security needs of the next generation.

To learn more about the Future Leaders Forum and the Future Leadership Scholarship Fund, please visit <http://www.aiard.org/future-leaders-forum>.

AIARD mobilizes support for international agriculture and rural development programs by increasing awareness of the instrumental role of agriculture in global development. AIARD’s membership is unique in its breadth and depth and works with a wide range of individuals and institutions to accomplish its shared mission and objectives. Learn more about AIARD at www.aiard.org.

Contact:

Deanna Behring, AIARD President
dmb37@psu.edu

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