

**2022-2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION**



## **FROM OUR STUDENTS:**

“Throughout my time at SDSU, I was extremely fortunate to receive several di erent

# LONGTIME DONORS BUILD A LEGACY BY SUPPORTING SDSU STUDENTS

care in providing scholarships for students pursuing careers

“Jim thought about our legacy for a while, and he just felt that he’d like to sponsor some ag scholarships,” said Melody. “We felt like SDSU was the perfect place to do that because it’s kind of what they’re known for – and they do it right.”

Prior to retiring from farming in 2020, the Mielkes funded their scholarships by gifting grain they raised – this SDSU students’ tuition expenses.

“Rewarding” is a common word used by the Mielkes when speaking about the relationships that they have built with their scholarship recipients over the last 10 years. One unique quality the Mielkes possess is that they truly want to know their recipients personally and be able to support to as they’ve been invited to some of their recipients’ children being born and have even entrusted a past scholarship recipient and his brothers to rent a portion of their farmland.

Jim and Melody Mielke of Hartford, South Dakota, stand out among most South Dakota State University scholarship recipients because of its well-known agricultural programs, without having any prior ties to the school.

Since 2010, the Mielkes have supported students pursuing degrees in a variety of areas including agronomy, precision agriculture, agricultural and biosystems engineering and nursing, as well as those in graduate nursing programs. Going forward, they will fund approximately 11 scholarships each year through their newly completed endowment managed by the SDSU Foundation.

When asked, Jim described agriculture and farming as the heart of the family. On the other hand, Melody has a passion for caring for others and has worked as a nurse at Avera McKennan Hospital and the Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls since she graduated from Augustana College in 1980. It seems

Regarding the endowment, Jim and Melody never thought they would have the opportunity to see it come to fruition in their lifetimes. However, with the timing of their retirement following the 2020 crop year and the halt to supply chain for new and used equipment due to COVID-19, it was the perfect opportunity for Jim and his brother to sell their fully depreciated equipment. This allowed Jim and Melody to fund the endowment with the earnings made on their equipment, rather than through their estate plan as they originally expected.

“We encourage those who have thought about giving to go through with a gift and provide support to the next generation,” they said.

“There are many different levels and ways of giving, so it doesn’t have to be anything more than what someone feels comfortable with,” said Jim.

Those interested in making their own gift can contact the SDSU Foundation at (605) 697-7475.

By Samantha Anderson

## **ELLEN FITZPATRICK**

Agronomy & Horticulture

---

### **Q. What has been your favorite part about your program?**

**A.** My favorite part about the agronomy and horticulture programs is that I am able to get a lot of hands-on experience. I enjoy working in the greenhouse and out in the fields doing research and learning about how plants work.

### **Q. What has been your favorite class and why?**

**A.**



**MARTIN BOETEL**

Agronomy & Precision Agriculture

Dwayne and Carolyn (Ogren) Kettering Endowed  
Scholarship

Fred and Wilma Westin Scholarship in Plant Science

**HALEY BORMAN**

Agronomy

Farm Credit Services of America Scholarship

Leonard L. Ladd Memorial Scholarship in  
Plant Science

Richard L. Elliot Scholarship in Plant Science

**KYLIE BOTERMAN**

Agronomy

South Dakota Crop Improvement  
Association Scholarship

**LANDIN BRINK**

Agronomy

Dean's Scholarship in CAFES

**NOAH CHRISTENSEN**

Agronomy

Burton L. Brage Scholarship

Ralph and Wanda Hansmeier  
Scholarship in Plant Science

Ray F. Lund Memorial Scholarship

# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**BRADY CHRISTIANSEN**

Precision Agriculture

William and Byrne Gri th  
Scholarship Fund

**RHETT DYKSTRA**

Agronomy

Maurice and Delores Nold  
Memorial Scholarship

**MCKENZIE CHRISTOPHER**

Horticulture

AHPS-ABE Ice Cream  
Scholarship Winner

**KELLEN ERDAHL**

Agronomy

Levi Thomas Buresch Memorial  
Scholarship in Agronomy

**ELIZABETH DEBOER**

Horticulture

AHPS General Scholarship

James and John Low  
Scholarship in Horticulture

Medary Acres Greenhouse, Inc.  
Scholarship

**JACK FARQUHAR**

Agronomy

Rusty and Sherry Antonen  
Endowed Scholarship



**JOLIE FEMRITE**

Horticulture

AHPS General Scholarship

Dr. Paul Prashar Memorial  
Scholarship in Horticulture

James and Carleton Randall  
Scholarship in Horticulture

South Dakota State Horticultural  
Society Scholarship

**CONNOR FIEDLER**

Agronomy

SD Wheat Commission  
Scholarship

**BROOKLYN FISCUS**

Precision Agriculture

Klingbeil Scholars Endowment

**ELLEN FITZPATRICK**

Agronomy & Horticulture

Klingbeil Scholars Endowment



**TREVOR FROST**

Agronomy

Leon and Joyce Wrage Family  
Scholarship in Plant Science

SD Wheat Commission  
Scholarship

**CORBIN FUOSS**

Agronomy

Mel Kloster Memorial  
Scholarship

Richard and Norman and Ellen  
Kuecker Scholarship

SD Wheat Commission  
Scholarship

Soil Scientist Memorial  
Scholarship

# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**CLAIRE GALVIN**  
Horticulture

**JOEL JAMES**

Agronomy

Merl Krier Scholarship in  
Agronomy

**REGAN HEINE**

Precision Agriculture

Klingbeil Scholars Endog77.1 (wmen)5 (t)TJ EMC ET /Figure <</MCID 453 >>BDC q 350.888 187.237 m 350.888 164.693

**BROOKE HOFFBECK**

Agronomy

Eldon F. Herring Scholarship

**ASHILYN HULSTEIN**

Agronomy

Don Moore Award for  
Undergraduate Research in  
Plant Science

Joseph J. and Coral (Co  
Bonnemann Scholarship in  
Plant Science

Richard L. Elliott Scholarship in  
Plant Science







**COLTON VOVOS**

Precision Agriculture

Dennis L. and Hazel J. Moe  
Scholarship in Ag Engineering

**JACOB WEBER**

**DANIEL WILLIAMSON**

Agronomy

Leonard Freiwald Family  
Scholarship in Plant Science

Rodney N. Richardson Endowed  
Scholarship in Plant Science



Precision Agriculture

Michael and Nancy Roberts  
Scholarship

**SPENCER KUIPER**



**KELLEN SCHMIDT**  
Agronomy

**ASHTYN SCHULTZ**

Horticulture

Harry B. Domke Memorial Scholarship in  
Horticulture

Myron E. and Bernadine L. Enevoldsen Scholarship

**DAVID STEINHAGEN**

Precision Agriculture

James and Melody Mielke Endowed Scholarship in  
Precision Agriculture

# INAUGURAL CLASS OF KLINGBEIL SCHOLARS NAMED THIS FALL

---

Sixteen students in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science were awarded the Klingbeil Scholarship this fall.

Klingbeil scholars were awarded \$10,000 each that can be renewed for four years. Moving forward, four incoming freshmen will be selected to be Klingbeil Scholars each year.

Students are selected by a committee made up of faculty and staff in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and Department of Agronomy, Horticulture and Plant Science. Students selected for the scholarship must plan to major in Precision Agriculture, Agronomy, or Agricultural Systems Technology. These students are expected to have strong academics, leadership involvement in high school activities, must be making a positive impact in their communities and show potential for success at SDSU. Most importantly, these students must exemplify the type of student that should be representing the Klingbeil Legacy by having a strong commitment to agriculture and its professions.

“The Klingbeil scholarship will attract talent to the precision ag sector that will serve as the backbone of the industry in future years. Individuals who graduate from our program will drive the change of tomorrow, helping to and help maintain a healthy environment for generations to come,” said Nic Uilk, Instructor and member of the Klingbeil Scholarship Selection Committee.

The Klingbeil Scholarships were made possible through

the Klingbeil activities, must be making a 1.1gbeg Am /Pca Technology. These stude918.2BB9ioap /PMinnes,entcessP <</Lang (ul(en-US)/MC,w,en-USS,T,endent that ET should be rep5mmuniTCBT /Sp S uldActT\* Text (by epCoIDC Crabten-USpr1.1gm Luspu

**MARK SANDAGER**  
**DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR FOR THE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,**  
**FOOD AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

The South Dakota State University Football Team won the FCS National Championship in January 2023! Could you imagine that just 20 years ago? In 2004 there was a bold and controversial decision to move South Dakota State University athletics from a Division Two program to Division One program. The decision by former South Dakota State University President Peggy Gordon-Miller and SDSU leadership came with a lot of emotion and controversy. Most considered the dream to be out of reach for a state like South Dakota.

On the drive home from Frisco, Texas, where I watched the game and felt the emotion in person, I had the opportunity to and it does not happen overnight. For decades the SDSU football team has had a singular goal: to be a National Champion.

To achieve this goal there were several strategic investments made to give the football team the resources needed to compete and it does not happen overnight. For decades the SDSU football team has had a singular goal: to be a National Champion. Lastly the football team needed the capital investments to perform at the highest level. Those investments include a new

