



SSA - Southern School of Agriculture

UMW - University of Minnesota, Waseca

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

35838 120th Street • Waseca, MN 56093 • Phone (507) 213-0338

September 25, 2025

TO: High School Counselors

FROM: Southern School of Agriculture and
University of Minnesota-Waseca Alumni Association
Scholarship Committee

RE: Available Scholarships

The Southern School of Agriculture (SSA), and the University of Minnesota-Waseca (UMW) Alumni Association is pleased to announce the availability of scholarships to current high school seniors whose parent, grandparent or great grandparent is alum of the University of Minnesota-Waseca or the Southern School of Agriculture.

We are excited to announce we have increased scholarships, two \$1,000 will be awarded to a child, grandchild or great grandchild of an alumnus with a GPA of 3.0 and above, and who is pursuing a 2- or 4-year post secondary degree. We ask for your help in locating qualified applicants.

Criteria and information on how to apply is available on the web at:
<http://sroc.cfans.umn.edu/about/alumni> or write to the Alumni Scholarship Committee, Southern Research and Outreach Center, 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN 56093. Questions can be directed to Deanne Nelson at (507) 213-0338.

A new funding opportunity is the Rural Development Leadership scholarship.

The Alumni Association works to support agricultural education, career opportunities, personal growth and development for fellow alumni members and their communities. We would greatly appreciate any help you can provide in locating qualified individuals to take advantage of this opportunity. To receive these funds, *it is not required* to have an immediate association with anyone from UMW or SSA.

Application must be postmarked no later than Monday, January 9, 2026. Successful recipients will be notified in March.

Please share this information with instructors at your school. Thank you for your help in soliciting qualified individuals to take advantage of these opportunities.

Thank you!

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, WASECA
SOUTHERN SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
CHILD, GRANDCHILD OR GREAT GRANDCHILD OF ALUMNI
\$1,000

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
Application deadline is January 9, 2026

Criteria

- Must be a current high school senior or graduate in first 4 years of college
- Must have maintained a grade point average of 3.0 and above.
- Must submit the most current transcript.
- Must submit two **signed** letters of recommendation.
- Complete a resume.
- Submit a cover letter summarizing resume.
- Indicate parent, grandparent or great grandparent's name and years of UMW/SSA attendance.

Determination

The scholarship committee will select the recipients of these awards based on the criteria outlined.

How to apply

- Complete resume of activities, offices held, accomplishments, leadership activities, and awards, employment history, and future plans.
- Cover letter summarizing resume.
- Submit two **signed** letters of recommendation from people who fully understand your work habits and intensity of education objectives. One should be an instructor and the second should be someone in your community.
- Submit a copy of your high school or college transcript, whichever is most current.

Submit to

Return complete application requirements, postmarked no later than January 9, 2026 to:

Alumni Scholarship Committee

Southern Research & Outreach Center, 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN 56093

Applications may also be submitted electronically to nelso191@alumni.umn.edu – letters of recommendation must be submitted directly from individual making the recommendation.

If submitted via email, all materials should be sent in one file pdf format only.

Selection

Factors to be considered by the Selection Committee

- **Resume & Cover Letter** (50% of selection decision)
Your personal achievements, activities, and awards.
- **Scholastic Standing** (30% of selection decision)
A student's cumulative college and/or high school GPA.
- **Recommendation** (10% of selection decision)
Recommendation from an instructor and someone in your community.
- **Ag Related or Services to Rural Communities** (10% of selection decision)
Declared major and area of pursued degree.

over

Notification

Successful scholarship recipients will be notified in March 2026. Upon notification, recipients must submit proof of the institution they plan to attend or are currently attending. *An applicant may only be awarded the UMW/SSA scholarship once, and the most current grade transcript will be used for judging criteria.*

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, WASECA
SOUTHERN SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

RURAL DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP

\$1,000.00

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 9, 2026

The Rural Development Leadership Scholarship is designed to encourage individuals to seek leadership training opportunities that would result in a strengthened rural Minnesota by providing funds to offset the cost of these training opportunities. Leadership education or training may include but is not limited to programs such as MARL–Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program; The Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership; Leadership Programs in FFA or 4-H and other programs. These programs are only examples, all educational opportunities will be considered.

Criteria

- Minimum age, completion of 8th grade and above.
- Provide a resume.
- Submit cover letter providing information about the program you are applying for, cost, and why you feel this program will improve your leadership skills.
- Must submit two **signed** letters of recommendation.
- Date of leadership education or training should occur between July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.
- Individual with passion for rural leadership.
- Indicate association to UMW or SSA, can be an extended family member, provide name and years of UMW/SSA attendance.

Determination

The scholarship committee will select the recipients of these awards based on the criteria outlined. More than one individual may be selected to receive this scholarship. Funds will be provided based on cost (up to the total cost of the program). A total of \$1,000 will be distributed annually.

How to apply

- Complete resume of activities, offices held, accomplishments, leadership activities, and awards, employment history, and future plans.
- Submit cover letter providing information about the program you are applying for, cost, and why you feel this program will improve your leadership skills.
- Submit two **signed** letters of recommendation from persons who fully understand your work habits and intensity of education objectives.

Submit to

Return complete application requirements to:

Alumni Scholarship Committee Southern Research & Outreach Center, 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN 56093
Applications may also be submitted electronically to nelso191@alumni.umn.edu– letters of recommendation must be submitted directly from individual making the recommendation. Questions can be directed to: Deanne Nelson (507) 213-0338.

If submitted via email, all materials should be sent in one file pdf format only.

Selection

- **Resume & Cover Letter** (50% of selection decision)
- **Recommendation** (25% of selection decision)
- **Ag Related or Services to Rural Communities** (25% of selection decision)

Notification

Successful recipients will be notified, funds will be reimbursed up to 100% of the cost up to a maximum of \$1,000 upon program completion and certification has been submitted.