

Expo provides scholarships to five agricultural students

By GEOFF PARKS
For the Capital Press

The Willamette Valley Ag Association Scholarship Program, which is giving scholarships to five Oregon college students for the 2015-2016 academic year, is now an in-house operation.

"In the past, we have contracted with the Oregon Student Assistance Commission to promote and award the annual scholarships," Jill Ingalls, WVAA manager, said, "(but) the board of the Willamette Valley Ag Expo felt they weren't reaching their target student, and so decided to pull the program in-house. So far, it has worked really well."

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quire a federal student aid application, and awards are targeted at students who are on a career path toward ag production.

This year, Les Schwab Tires joined in the program with a donation to augment the awards, making it possible to award the five students \$1,700 each.

Four of the students attend Oregon State University and the fifth attends Eastern Oregon University.

This year's recipients include:
• Mitchell Evers, a Banks High School graduate studying bio-resource research at OSU: "By supporting students like me with scholarships, the WVAE is making

a vital investment not just in the future of agriculture, but in the future of everyone that puts food in their stomachs or clothes on their back.

"Working hard to earn a good education is something I have always valued, and that's part of the reason I'm so appreciative that the WVAE is helping me be a part of modern-day, cutting-edge, progressive agriculture."

• Stefani Evers, a Banks High School graduate now studying ag sciences at OSU: "I truly appreciate being awarded this scholarship! My education is very important to me and I would not be able to continue it without so much support."

• Kalli Sherer, a Tillamook High School graduate now studying animal science at OSU: "I just com-

pleted my veterinary school application with the hopes of attending OSU's veterinary program next fall to become a food animal veterinarian."

• Katherine Smith, a Central Linn High School graduate now studying ag sciences at EOU: "Receiving a scholarship means a lot, knowing the effort I put into school is rewarded and that I am supported greatly by groups like the WVAE and others."

• Amanda Noble, a McMinnville High School graduate now studying ag business management at OSU: "I am very grateful to receive this scholarship. ... It feels great to get recognition from agricultural sources in the area."



Courtesy of WVAE
Katherine Smith, WVAE scholarship winner from Central Linn High School.



Courtesy of WVAE
Mitchell Evers, WVAE scholarship winner from Banks, Ore.



Courtesy of WVAE
Kalli Sherer, WVAE scholarship winner from Tillamook, Ore.



Courtesy of WCAE
Amanda Noble, WVAE scholarship winner from McMinnville, Ore.



Courtesy of WVAE
Stefani Evers, WVAE scholarship winner from Banks, Ore.



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