

Students receive scholarships through Expo

By GEOFF PARKS
For the Capital Press

Two students have been selected as recipients of the 2016 Willamette Valley Ag Association scholarships.

This year's recipients are Andrew Miles, a graduate student in agricultural education at Oregon State University, and Stefanie Evers, who is working on a double major in agricultural sciences and sustainability at OSU.

Some of the proceeds from the Willamette Valley Ag Expo are dedicated to the WVAA scholarship program.

The purpose of the scholarship is to support students pursuing a career in agriculture business or production.

Students must possess a 3.0 grade point average or higher. The scholarship is open to college students who are at least sophomores.



Stephanie Evers of Banks, Ore., has a double major at Oregon State



Andrew Miles of Silver Lake, Ore., is a graduate student in agricultural

Miles graduated from North Lake High School in Silver Lake in 2013,

then earned his bachelor's degree in

agricultural education at OSU with a GPA of 3.71 — after just three years.

He will graduate from the OSU agricultural education master's degree program next June with the goal of becoming a teacher.

He currently is involved in the OSU Leadership Academy, designed to build skills in high-achieving students in the College of Agricultural Science.

He also serves as an ambassador for the College of Agricultural Sciences and College of Forestry at OSU.

Miles said as he was totaling up how much money he would need to finish his master's degree, he thought he might come up short.

"When they told me (the WVAA) scholarship would be that exact amount, my jaw hit the floor," he said. "I was in complete awe, just

shocked, to get it. It's so great."

Evers is a returning recipient of the WVAA scholarship program award, having also won last year. She is from Banks, Ore.

At Banks, she was involved in FFA and the National Honor Society, where she organized food and clothing drives and fundraisers.

In 2012, she represented Washington County as its dairy princess-ambassador.

Recently, she participated through the OSU chapter of Global Medical Brigades, traveling to Nicaragua to provide medical, dental and public health relief to rural Nicaraguans in need.

"I'm not sure what field I will be going into when I graduate," she said, "but I am very excited to see what the year will hold and I am so grateful to have received this (WVAA) scholarship.

Dine Around Oregon features state's bounty

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"A full-meal buffet with a different theme in each building of the 2016 Willamette Valley Ag Expo — and you can eat your way through all of them!"

That's how WVAE event coordinator Jill Ingalls describes the Expo's Dine Around Oregon event on Wednesday, Nov. 16, now in its fifth year as a highlight of the three-day ag showcase.

It is, she says, "a progressive dinner-type hearty buffet, Oregon-style, times four."

"Wednesday offers the longest-running hours of the week — and can be a long day for everyone," Ingalls said. "Adding something fun and staying with our agriculture theme was the challenge when we began Dine Around Oregon five years ago, and now it just fits perfectly."

One of the reasons for that perfect fit

is Mary Bentley and her Valley Catering at Camp Adair.

Ingalls said Bentley leans on local produce providers such as Stahlbush Island Farms and Oregon products from Norpac foods.

"Mary is amazing, not only as a caterer but in allowing me to call up and say, 'Hey, we have fresh cranberries donated,' and she comes up with something to add to the menu to feature them," Ingalls said. "We couldn't do this without Mary's creative genius and cooperation."

The value of this meal would top the \$30 price point anywhere else, Ingalls said, but at the Expo, sponsors and partners bring the cost of the meal down to just \$12.

"For example," she said, "the Oregon Cattleman's Association contributes Oregon beef products, the Oregon Dairy Women bring pounds and pounds of Oregon cheese, and the list goes on

and on with each type of food product. Lamb is raised in Brownsville on the Reed Anderson Ranch and prepared by Pat Manning of Manning Farms.

"What started out as a nice idea for a fun activity on a Wednesday evening has turned into a lovely event with high demand for tickets," Ingalls said. "Vendors love the activity at night and stay open to accommodate shoppers and farmers that can't attend the Expo during daytime hours."

This year 800 tickets will be available and event producers are counting on a sellout prior to the event. Once the sponsors have all received their allotment the tickets will be sold online only at www.wvaexpo.com.

If the tickets don't all sell out, they will be available at the door, she said, though Expo-goers should not assume any will be available then.

"It's a bit of a feeding frenzy — no pun intended," Ingalls said.



Courtesy of WVAE
Customers line up for the progressive dinner at Dine Around Oregon.

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