Western Society of Weed Science Rita Beard Endowment Scholarship

The WSWS Rita Beard Endowment Foundation is pleased to offer travel support to students or early career professionals that are studying/working in the area of invasive species management on natural lands/waters of the United States. Scholarships will be awarded to the most outstanding undergraduate or graduate student(s) and/or young professional(s) that complete the application requirements (described below). The scholarships are to be used to defray the cost of attending one of the following professional meeting(s): Western Society of Weed Science, North American Invasive Species Management Association, Western Aquatic Plant Management Society, or the Society of Range Management.

SCHOLARSHIPS & ELIGIBILITY

A total of $1,500 (may be divided between multiple applicants) may be awarded each year. Students must be enrolled at the undergraduate or graduate level at a U.S. college or university studying for a career that includes invasive species management in natural areas (defined as areas related to range, forestry, federally or state managed lands, lakes or rivers). Young professionals (age 30 or younger) working in invasive species management as defined above are also eligible. The scholarship is to be used as noted above. To ensure scholarship funds can be used for travel to the annual meeting of choice, selections will be made and participants notified of the Endowment Foundation Board of Trustees' decision at least 60 days prior to the selected meeting.

APPLICATION PACKAGE

1. Completed and signed Application Form (found at the end of this document).
2. One-page cover letter describing how the applicant became interested in invasive species management in natural areas, how the applicant's studies/work will contribute to the field of invasive species management, and what future contributions the applicant hopes to make to the field of invasive species management including career goals.
3. One-page CV or resume summary highlighting recent relevant experience through schooling, work and/or internships, awards, honors, publications, leadership positions, and community activities.
4. Two letters of support, one of which must be from the student's academic advisor, or if a working young professional, their direct supervisor. The person writing the letters should be familiar with the applicant's abilities, interests, and career goals.
5. **For students only**: Academic transcripts (unofficial copy is acceptable).

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be evaluated based on academic record and scholarly achievements, potential contributions to the future of invasive species management, and participation in extracurricular pursuits contributing to the advancement of any of the following: terrestrial or aquatic plant management, natural resource management, and/or education and mentoring.
*Note: Students and young professional applicants will be evaluated separately. Individuals can be awarded this scholarship only one time.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Recipients will submit to the Board of Trustees a brief summary of their activities at the professional meeting they attended and what benefits they received by attending (1 page maximum, due no more than one month after the meeting).

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted electronically. The following documents (application form, cover letter, CV summary, academic transcripts (students only), and support letters) should be compiled into a single PDF file (preferred) or combined into a single zip file and sent to the WSWS Rita Beard Endowment Foundation Secretary,Shannon Clark (shannon.clark@envu.com).

Deadline for applications to the WSWS, WAPMS, NAISMA or the SRM meeting is 5:00 PM (PDST) December 1, 2026.
Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Western Society of Weed Science Rita Beard Endowment Scholarship
APPLICATION FORM (Students)

INSTRUCTIONS: This application is to be completed by the student applicant. Applications must be submitted electronically. All documents (application form, cover letter, CV summary, academic transcripts, and two letters of support) should be compiled into a single PDF file (preferred) or combined into a single zip folder and sent to **WSWSRBEF Secretary, Shannon Clark (shannon.clark@envu.com). Applications for the WSWS, WAPMS, NAISMA, or the SRM meetings must be submitted by 5:00 PM (PDST) December 1, 2026.**

Full Name:

Address:

City, State Zip Code:

Telephone:

Email:

School:

Department:

Degree Sought:

UNDERGRAD ONLY - Year in School:

GRADUATE ONLY - How Many Years Completed in Program:

Anticipated Date of Degree Completion:

Graduate or Major Advisor(s):

Professional Meeting to Attend and Why:

The information provided with this application is true and accurate.

Signature _____ Date _____

Western Society of Weed Science Rita Beard Endowment Scholarship
APPLICATION FORM (Young Professionals)

INSTRUCTIONS: This application is to be completed by the Young Professional applicant. Applications must be submitted electronically. All documents (application form, cover letter, CV summary, and two letters of support) should be compiled into a single PDF file (preferred) or combined into a single zip folder and sent to and sent to **WSWSRBEF Secretary, Shannon Clark (shannon.clark@envu.com). Applications for the WSWS, WAPMS, NAISMA, or the SRM meetings must be submitted by 5:00 PM (PDST) December 1, 2026.**

Full Name:

Address:

City, State Zip Code:

Telephone:

Email:

Employer:

Work Title:

Years on the Job (include all positions held):

Immediate Supervisor:

Professional Meeting to Attend and Why:

The information provided with this application is true and accurate.

Signature _____ Date _____