Elena Sanchez Memorial WSWS Outstanding Student Scholarship Program

The Western Society of Weed Science is pleased to offer the WSWS Outstanding Student Scholarship to promote greater student participation at the WSWS annual meeting and encourage new weed science research and future weed science careers. Scholarships will be awarded to three outstanding undergraduate and/or graduate WSWS student members who will attend and present at the WSWS annual meeting.

SCHOLARSHIPS

A total of $3,000 (three $1,000 scholarships) will be awarded to outstanding undergraduate and/or graduate WSWS student members currently conducting research relevant to weed science. The scholarship money may be used to defray research costs, as a stipend, and for travel to the WSWS annual meeting.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a degree program (B.S., M.S., or Ph.D.) at an accredited college or university in the western region (see AboutUs – Western Society of Weed Science (wsweedscience.org) for a list of states), and actively conducting research related to weed science. Applicants must be current WSWS members at the time of application. **Applicants must present a paper or poster at the WSWS annual meeting** held in the first part of March 2027.

APPLICATION PACKAGE

1. Completed and signed Application Form (found at the end of this document).

2. One-page cover letter describing how applicant became interested in weed science, how applicant's research will contribute to the field of weed science and the WSWS objectives, and what future contributions applicant hopes to make to the field of weed science including career goals.

3. 1/2-page CV or resume summary highlighting recent relevant experience through schooling, work and/or internships; awards, honors, publications, leadership positions, community activities.

4. Draft abstract (general plan) for paper or poster presentation at WSWS annual meeting.

5. Two letters of support, one of which must be from the student's graduate or major advisor. Recommenders should be familiar with the applicant's abilities, interests, and career goals.

6. Academic transcripts (unofficial copy is acceptable).

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be evaluated based on contribution of research to the discipline of weed science and to the WSWS objectives, academic record and scholarly achievements, potential contributions to the future of weed science, and participation in extracurricular pursuits contributing to the advancement of any of the following: weed science, natural resource management, and/or education and mentoring.

*Note: Undergraduate and graduate applicants will be evaluated separately. Students are eligible to receive a scholarship once during their undergraduate or graduate studies.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

In addition to presenting their research at the annual meeting, recipients must volunteer approximately 4 hours assisting with various tasks at the meeting.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted electronically. All documents (application form, cover letter, CV summary, academic transcripts, draft abstract and two letters of support) should be compiled into a single PDF file (preferred) or combined into a single zip folder and sent to WSWS Awards Chair Curtis Rainbolt (curtis.rainbolt@basf.com).
Deadline for applications is 5:00 PM December 1, 2026
Incomplete applications will not be considered. Scholarship winners will be contacted by December 15, 2026 and recognized at the Annual Meeting.

The Western Society of Weed Science is a professional and scientific society of western weed scientists and managers. Members include research scientists, vegetation managers, agency personnel, and industry representatives interested in all aspects of weed biology, ecology, and management. The objectives of WSWS are:

- To foster and encourage education and research in weed science
- To foster cooperation among state, federal and private agencies in solution of weeds
- To support legislation governing weed control programs, weed research and education
- To support the Weed Science Society of America and foster state and regional organizations and agencies interested in weed control

Elena Sanchez Western Society of Weed Science Outstanding Student Scholarship APPLICATION FORM

INSTRUCTIONS: This application is to be For Committee Use Only completed by the student-applicant. Applications must be submitted electronically. All documents (application form, cover letter, CV summary, academic transcripts, draft abstract and two letters of support) should be compiled into a single PDF file (preferred) or combined into a single zip folder and sent to Curtis Rainbold (curtis.rainbolt@basf.com). **Applications must be sent by 5:00 PM October 6, 2023.**

Undergraduate ____ Graduate ____ (Check one)
Full name:
Address:
Telephone:
Email:
School:
Department:
Years in school:
For graduate students, how many years completed in program:
Degree sought:
Anticipated date of degree completion:
Graduate or major advisor(s):
Descriptive title of research project:
Objective(s) of research:
Signature:
Date: