

TREE Fund Board of Trustees,

I am honored and elated to accept the John Wright Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000. This scholarship provides me with peace of mind and even more inspiration to continue putting my passion into my studies and work. There are times I question my choice to change careers at my age. Not due to lack of passion but strictly because financial burdens and stressors can be so distracting from schoolwork.

My family and I swelled with emotion when we received this notification. I am thankful for this generous award. Below is a brief bio of myself. Let me know if there is any information I should add or remove.

Kayla Stuart began her forestry journey amidst an eight-year career as an LPN. She is currently a senior at the University of Tennessee (UT) concentrating in Urban Forestry. Her discovery of Urban Forestry combined her passions in advocating for human health and supporting healthy, equitable, and sustainable urban green spaces. Kayla has a life partner and two charismatic daughters ages 13 and 6 who have been the driving force in accomplishing her goals. She is the Data and Nominations Manager for the Tennessee Champion Tree Program, and the Society of American Foresters student chapter vice-president at UT. She is also a proud tree board member for the City of Knoxville.

I am so appreciative of the time and consideration that went into reviewing all of the candidates' applications. Thank you again TREE Fund Board of Trustees!

Kayla Stuart
Senior, Urban Forestry
Society of American Foresters UT Student Chapter, Vice President

Data and Nominations Manager, Tennessee Champion Tree Program
City of Knoxville - Tree Board Member



May 26th, 2022

To the TREE Fund Scholarship Application Review Committee and the Board of Trustees, I couldn't be happier to have been selected as the recipient of the Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship. I feel extremely honored to be receiving another scholarship from the TREE Fund. Thank you for further supporting my education in the fields of urban forestry and arboriculture. Last year, I mentioned a summer field experience which all students in the College of Natural Resources at UW-Stevens Point must take part in. I am currently writing from the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station, part of our summer field experience, where we are practicing the skills of many natural resources fields. Later this summer, our cohort will travel to Europe to complete our session.

Receiving this second scholarship from the TREE Fund will help cover the remaining cost of this overseas experience. We'll be learning about how natural resources are managed under European perspectives. I'm excited to see how the urban forest is managed in the places that we will visit and I can't wait to see how trees play a part in the urban landscapes we will traverse.

This scholarship is not only financial support, but also a motivation for me to carry on in my mission to weave the natural beauty of trees into the built landscapes of our cities.

Thank you once again,
Matthew Le

Olivia Liebing
Ames, Iowa 50010

June 6, 2022

Dear TREE Fund Trustees,

Thank you for supporting me through the Bonnie Appleton Memorial Scholarship. I am eager to seize the opportunities your support will allow me. I still get excited when I think about opening the award email. It feels unreal.

This summer, I have been interning in Wisconsin at North Wind Perennial Farms gaining experience in nursery work, landscaping, and plant communities. I still haven't figured how my car will fit all the rescue saplings from being on the garden maintenance crew for the ride home. Thankfully, my green thumb is still developing and there are a few months for climate to cull them.

I was also lucky enough to work out a room and board arrangement for weekend labor for with Larryville Gardens, a neighboring vegetable farm. Trees have a huge presence here as well and we're currently installing a food forest to act as a windbreak.

Your support is part of what fuels my journey and cultivates confidence in me to continue working towards my dreams. You also might have got me to add Tour des Trees to my to do list. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Olivia