

MNLGA 2017 Scholarship Recipients

In keeping with its mission to promote and provide for the future success of Maryland's ornamental horticulture industry, the Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association shall sponsor academic scholarships to students pursuing an education in the field of landscape/ornamental horticulture. The 2017 applicant pool all shared their passion for horticulture; either in design/architecture, plant science, or greenhouse specialization, and their excitement to enter a career in the horticulture industry was abundantly expressed in their applications. We congratulate our 2017 scholarship recipients: Stephen Blaes, Jr. and Rachel Levitt.

Rachel Levitt

Rachel is currently a junior in the Landscape Architecture program at Penn State University. She takes a broad range of classes that included interactive design studio, introduction to soils, world landforms and plant biology as well as ecology and GIS. She participates in hands on field trip classes that link landforms and vegetation to human manipulation of landscape through time.

Growing up in the Chesapeake Bay area has made her appreciate the unique eco-system and is more aware of the challenges that the watershed faces. It is her hope that her education will be used to focus on environmental work in Maryland.

One of Rachel's teachers notes, "She is very passionate about the environment." She spearheaded an environmental initiative, weaving sustainable practices into the operation of the project organization. Another professor states, "Rachel is open to new ideas of sustainability and very conscientious regarding her work and her commitments to others."

Rachel is entering her senior year at Penn State and looks forward to returning to Maryland to work, upon graduation. Her family resides in Columbia.

Stephen Blaes, Jr.

Stephen is a second-year student in the Sustainable Horticulture program at the Community College of Baltimore County. Horticulture has long been an interest of his, as he pursues his degree after a number of years working in the landscape and grounds management profession.

In addition to his studies, Steve currently works as a groundskeeper at Johns Hopkins University. He holds certifications in arboriculture by the International Society of Arboriculture and in a Certified Landscape Technician.

Steve, his wife, and two-year-old daughter live in Baltimore.

The MNLGA is pleased to endorse our 2017 scholarship recipients' goals and we applaud them for their hard work and dedication. We extend our best wishes to Rachel and Stephen on their future academic and career success.

You may find more information on the Maryland Nursery, Landscape and Greenhouse Association Ornamental Horticulture Scholarship, as well as additional horticulture education scholarships at:
<http://www.mnlga.org>.