

2023 SWS Scholarship Winner

CAPCA, in partnership with the Stanley W. Strew Trust, takes immense pride in administering an annual scholarship program aimed at supporting students interested in the pest management industry. This incredible opportunity is open to all students, whether they are enrolled in a community college or a four-year university, especially those who plan to pursue studies in agricultural or horticultural fields in the upcoming fall semester, and giving preference to those who are embarking on their junior and senior years. Additionally, we encourage students to apply every year they remain eligible, regardless of whether they've previously received the scholarship.

CAPCA is thrilled to announce the recipient of this year's \$3,000 scholarship: Colin Koubeck.

Colin Koubeck **2023 Scholarship Recipient**

Originally from the East Coast, Colin is currently a senior at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He's pursuing a degree in Agricultural and Environmental Plant Sciences, with a specific focus on Plant Protection Science. Colin aspires to establish himself as an independent PCA specializing in Central Coast crops and, eventually, build his own research and consulting firm for efficacy trials. Since arriving on the Central Coast and embarking on his academic journey at Cal Poly, Colin has been deeply engaged in clubs, research initiatives, and work experiences.

His journey thus far includes serving as a regenerative ag intern for City Farm SLO, working as a pathology lab assistant in a summer program at the University of Maryland, contributing as a research assistant at Cal Poly, being a student assistant at the Cal Poly Strawberry Center, and interning in berry production at Betteravia Farms. Beyond these endeavors, he generously volunteers his time with First Fruits Farm, a San Luis Obispo non-profit that grows and donates fresh produce to food banks. Colin also actively participates in the California State FFA Judging Finals, where he lends a hand with judging the vegetable contest.

Colin attributes his achievements to his insatiable curiosity, his willingness to learn, and his unbridled passion for being out in the field. One of his favorite pastimes involves strolling through fields, diligently inspecting for intriguing insects or unusual leaf lesions. There's no doubt that Colin's dedication will continue to drive his educational and career success, making him a valuable asset to the pest management industry.

We received a heartfelt note of gratitude from Colin this July, shortly after he was informed of his scholarship award:

To the Board of Trustees: Thank you so much for selecting me as the 2023 Stanley W. Strew scholarship recipient! I am extremely grateful to receive this prestigious scholarship and the money will go to good use in helping me further my education and knowledge of pest management. I can attend all 3 days of the SNE and look forward to the conference, I had a great time at the one last year. Again, thank you so much for selecting me!

Sincerely, Colin Koubeck

