

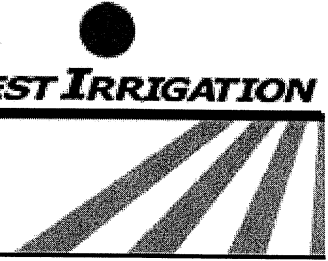


**SJFB Foundation for Agricultural Education**

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**PACIFIC  
SOUTHWEST IRRIGATION**

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## Gary Simas Agricultural Scholarship

### 2020 Application

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Due: February 28, 2020

**G**ary Simas died in May of 2006, at the age of 57, far too soon for a man who had so much left to give. And, because of his incredible generosity, friends and family established this memorial scholarship in his name.

**A**ppreciation for land and farming was developed by spending his life in this great valley, from Livingston to Escalon, from Riverbank to Modesto. Although the Vietnam War pulled Gary away from his home, upon his return, he knew what he wanted and needed to do. He pursued his education at California State University Chico, majoring in Agronomy.

**R**espected as a designer, innovator and businessman in the agricultural irrigation community, Gary was one of the foremost experts in drip irrigation application for both row and permanent crops, portable irrigation systems, filtration systems, and pumping stations, as well as a consultant in crop cultivation and production. After working for Rain for Rent, Golden State Irrigation Services, he and his longtime friend, Jim Clare, formed Pacific Southwest Irrigation Corporation in Stockton. He was tireless in his work and devotion to his clients' interests and a fixture in their operation. Gary was characterized as "the standard by which his peers measure their work."

**Y**et, Gary was a special man for many reasons. Not only a salesman with integrity and a true man of his word, he had a charismatic gift for making friends with many of his customers and vendors. Gary had a special love for his friends and family, often surpassing the definition of 'friend' and 'colleague'. As an on-going tribute to Gary, friends, family, and colleagues have established this memorial scholarship to honor his exceptional life.

## DESCRIPTION

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Scholarships awarded to high school seniors based on career goals, demonstrated leadership abilities in agriculture, and a perceived ability to contribute to and succeed in an agriculture-related field. Academic performance will be considered.

## ELIGIBILITY

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To apply for this scholarship, the following criteria must be met. You must:

- be a student pursuing a two- or four-year degree in agronomy or related crop production, or closely related fields. (See list below)
  - Agricultural Business
  - Agricultural Science
  - Agricultural Systems Management
  - Animal Science
  - BioResource and Agricultural Engineering
  - Crop Science
  - Dairy Science
  - Earth Sciences
  - Environmental Horticultural Science
  - Environmental Management and Protection
  - Food Science
  - Forestry and Natural Resources
  - Fruit Science
  - Nutrition
  - Plant Protection Service
  - Recreation Administration
  - Soil Science
  - Wine and Viticulture
- be a high school senior graduating in 2020.
- be a resident of California and reside in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, or Merced Counties.

## AWARDS

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Three awards are attached to this scholarship:

- Two \$500 scholarships for two students who will be attending Modesto Junior College or Delta Community College in the fall of 2020.
- One \$1,000 scholarship for a student who will be attending a four-year college or university in the fall of 2020.

Each award will be forwarded to the winning student's designated college or university upon acceptance into an agriculture-related field of study.

## REQUIREMENTS

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To be considered for this scholarship, you must submit:

- the completed application form. (See attached)
- two letters of recommendation. (One letter from a school faculty member or counselor and one from an individual who is in an agriculture-related business. These letters should address the student's work ethic and character, as well as any other pertinent information.)
- a personal statement that reflects your interest in agriculture and the qualities that you have that reflect why you would be a candidate for this scholarship. (Two-page limit.)
- Due to the Farm Bureau office no later than February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Recipients will be presented a certificate recognizing the award at the SJFB 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Scholarship recipients are advised to attend.

## TO APPLY

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Send the completed application form, reference letters (2), and essay to:

San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation  
Attn: Gary Simas Agricultural Scholarship  
3290 Ad Art Road  
Stockton, CA 95215

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\_\_\_\_\_ Gary Simas Agricultural 2020 Scholarship Application \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICATION:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
last first middle

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Current GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(Record your GPA and have your counselor sign in the space provided above.)

**Personal Statement:** Describe your reasons for wanting to pursue a college education in an agriculture-related field. (NOTE: Please type or write your response of no more than two pages, and attach it to this application. Applications that are illegible will be disqualified.)

**Involvement:** Include below any involvement in the school, community, or agriculture-related programs that you have had during your four years of high school.

| SCHOOL ACTIVITIES | COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES |
|-------------------|----------------------|
|                   |                      |
|                   |                      |
|                   |                      |
|                   |                      |
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**Community College, College, or University:** List below the schools to which you have applied or have been accepted, for the fall of 2019.

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|--|--|
|  |  |
|  |  |

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Attach the completed application, your personal statement, and two recommendations, and mail to the address shown on the first page of this packet



———— Gary Simas Agricultural 2020 Scholarship Application ————

**RECOMMENDATION #1: Individual Working in Agriculture-related Business**

*To be completed by applicant:* Please fill out the top portion of this form and request from an individual who works in an agriculture-related business to fill out the bottom portion. Attach it to your application before submitting.

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
last first middle

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Individual's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

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*To be completed by an individual in an agriculture-related business:*

How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

In what subject(s) have you taught the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider addressing some of the following criteria in your letter of recommendation: Describe the applicant with regard to academic performance, class participation, personal attributes, and character. Include information that will assist the scholarship evaluation committee in viewing the applicant as an individual. Is there a particular trait or personal quality that makes this student stand out? Are there special circumstances in this student's background that will provide the evaluation committee with better understanding and insight into his/her character and academic or extra-curricular performance? (Note: Feel free to attach an extra sheet, if necessary.)

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