



THE MIKE AND KAREN STUART SCHOLARSHIP

OVERVIEW:

The Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association (FFVA) and the Florida Specialty Crop Foundation are dedicated to cultivating strong leaders and building a robust talent pipeline for Florida agriculture. To inspire passion for the industry and support the next generation of agricultural professionals, FFVA established the *Mike and Karen Stuart Scholarship*.

This scholarship supports college students pursuing careers in the specialty crop sector—an essential segment of agriculture that includes vegetables, citrus, tropical fruit, berries, sod, sugar cane, tree crops and more. Eligible applicants must be interested in production areas such as growing, packing, and shipping, or in allied trade fields including fertilizer and crop protection, equipment, food safety, sales, marketing, and other related disciplines.

Created in honor of Mike and Karen Stuart's many years of dedicated service to the specialty crop industry, the scholarship recognizes their commitment and invests in students who will help advance the future of Florida agriculture.



SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS:

- **Academic Standing:** Must be an incoming college junior, senior, or graduate student.
- **Minimum GPA:** Must hold a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- **Field of Interest:** Must demonstrate an interest in pursuing a career in the specialty crop agriculture industry.
- **Residency:** Must be a Florida resident.
- **Transcript:** Must submit an official or unofficial transcript reflecting current GPA.
- **Application Materials:** Must submit a completed application, including two letters of reference, by **April 16, 2026.**

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS:

- **Award Amount:** Each scholarship provides **\$2,000** for one academic year.
- Two scholarships will be awarded annually. Applicants may apply and be awarded the scholarship up to two years; years can be consecutive or non-consecutive years.
- **Priority Consideration:** Preference may be given to applicants with a direct connection to an FFVA member company, either through family affiliation or through employment/internship with an FFVA member.
- **Student Contribution:** Recipients will be asked to author an article or reflective piece for FFVA's *Harvester* blog.

ABOUT FFVA: The Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association is a full-service organization serving Florida's grower-shipper community since 1943. FFVA represents a broad range of crops: vegetables, citrus, tropical fruit, berries, sod, sugar cane, tree crops, and more. We listen and respond to our members' needs, working to shape agricultural public policy. Our mission is to enhance the competitive and business environment for producing and marketing fruits, vegetables, and other crops.