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 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Scholarship Applications from SOACDF

The Southern Ohio Agriculture and Community Development Foundation has been in existence for a number of years now. This is also known as the “Tobacco Foundation”.

The SOACDF was formed after the Master Agreement back in the late 1990’s between the Tobacco Companies and nearly all of the States. The foundation’s purpose was to help the farmers and communities that have traditionally raised and depended on tobacco transition into other enterprises and other means of income.

The SOACDF has assisted several farms with assistance with equipment, fencing, livestock, lime, buildings, etc. over the past 15 or 16 years. There have been several new enterprises like vineyards and shrimp ponds, but most of the help has gone to assist with expanding existing operations on the farm. There have been several expansions to beef operations, hay and grain, and dairies, just to mention a few. These have all been helpful to the farmers, but they have also been good for the businesses in the area. However, as good as all of these sounds for the farmers and the businesses, the best money spent may be on education.

Since very early in its existence, the SOACDF has offered an Educational Assistance Program. This program has offered assistance for college degrees and technical training for both youth and farm families. There has always been a set amount per family, with a cap per family and per individual for a given year.

This year there will be a new opportunity for those currently in college. Eligibility is based on the fact that you must have been a tobacco producer, grower or quota owner in at least one of the years between 1997 and 2004, or their immediate family dependent. In addition, you must be enrolled full time as an upcoming sophomore, junior or senior for 2018-2019 at an accredited institution. This is a Competitive Grant which can be used toward tuition, room and board, lab fees, and books for the 2018-2019 academic year. The grant may be up to \$7500. Applicants may only receive this grant one time.

The applications are available now online or you may pick them up at the local OSU Extension Offices, FSA Offices, or the SOACDF Office in Hillsboro. To obtain the application online go to <http://soacdf.net> The application period is January 1, 2018 until January 31, 2018. The guidelines are available with the application. If you have questions, call the SOACDF Office at 937-393-2700.

## Dates to Remember

Oct. 23 Highland Co. Dairy Service Unit Banquet.



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