

2018 SWCS Scholarship Winners – Tyler Kleinsasser and Jonathan Linke

By Arlene Brandt-Jenson, Scholarship Committee Chair

Congratulations to the two scholarship winners for 2018: Tyler Kleinsasser from Huron, SD, attending SD School of Mines and Technology; and Jonathan Linke from Woonsocket, SD, attending SDSU. Each of these exceptional students received \$1000 towards their higher education costs.



Tyler Kleinsasser is a Civil & Environmental Engineering major at SDSM&T, will obtain his undergrad degree in May 2019, then continue at graduate school. Tyler holds a 4.0 GPA and has received numerous awards. Tyler says “I have the opportunity to participate in an exchange program, so I will be taking classes in the United Arab Emirates.” He has been a Resident Assistant since 2015 and is Treasurer for the Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Society. Through the SD Mines Professional Development Institute, Tyler facilitated leadership retreats and provided 1300 students with professional training resources. Tyler volunteers in the Rapid City community through Big Brothers Big Sisters and is a small group leader in Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. He was a camp counselor and worked in construction this past summer. Tyler has already helped conserve natural resources on a global scale: through Engineers and Scientists Abroad, he replaced fossil fuels with solar panels in Chile, and installed a biogas latrine in Tanzania. As a volunteer for the Salvation Army School for the Blind in Jamaica, he mended broken pipe to provide clean drinking water.

Jonathan Linke is pursuing a double major in Agronomy and Animal Science from SDSU, and holds a 4.0 GPA. He has held numerous local and state positions in 4-H and FFA. He has traveled extensively with the SDSU Livestock Judging Team, and his season will wrap up with the national contest in Louisville, KY in November. Jonathan is the assistant treasurer for Little International. He describes his busy schedule: “I will be attending the Mid America Crop Life Association annual meeting this fall, as well as the Agriculture Future of America Leaders’ Conference, and I will be on the arena crew for National FFA Convention.” In her reference letter, Barbara Kleinjan, SDSU Honors Lecturer writes: “As a leader and student of human nature, Jonathan constantly puts the needs and concerns of others before his own desires. His numbers honors and awards reveal that trait so well; however, his humility surrounds his presence, making him always approachable and consider to everyone – an invaluable trait in the agricultural and conservation community.”



Congratulations to Tyler Kleinsasser and Jonathan Linke, two accomplished students with bright futures in conserving our precious natural resources.