



Professional Improvement Foundation

July 2015 Report

2016 Grants

The trustees prefer that grant requests to PIF come at least two weeks prior to their twice-annual meetings. April 12, 2016 and July 24, 2016. Use the online link at ageditors.com, AAEA Foundation tab or email to aaea@gandgcomm.com.

PIF Grants Increase Significantly

PIF has placed a high priority in recent years to increase the number of grants and stipends it awards to members and students. In 2010, PIF awarded \$25,200 in grants. This year, grants will near \$58,000.

Major PIF Fund Recipients:

- Travel for International Chair to attend IFAJ meeting in Berlin. Steve Werblow attended on our behalf.
- \$10,500: Seven stipends for 2015 IFAJ Congress in New Zealand awarded to JoAnn Alumbaugh, Carey Brown, Katie Knapp, Lorne McClinton, Karen Simon, Pam Smith and Candace Weeda
- \$5,000: Legacy interview videos for 100th Anniversary
- \$3,500: IFAJ Master Class
- \$2,500: Grant to fund the Andy Markwart Horizon Award co-sponsored by John Deere (see right)
- \$1,260: Sponsor speaker for ethics session at NAMA
- \$1,070: Speaker fees and expenses for AAEA/LPC Regional Workshop in Omaha
- \$9,525: Fund online system for awards program administration and judges
- \$2,500: Fund desk calendars for new and renewing AAEA members
- Fund member discount for 2015 Poynter Institute webinars
- \$2,500: Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) mid-winter meeting
- \$7,000: ACT scholarships for Cameron Jodlowski, Iowa State University; Kelsey Litchfield, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Mara McGurl, University of Georgia
- \$11,000: Stipends for two summer interns (see right)



AAEA PIF Trustees (2014-2015)

From left: Kelly Schwalbe (chair), Jim Patrico, Holly Martin (secretary/treasurer), Gil Gullickson, Des Keller, Steve Mercer, Kurt Lawton, Sally Behringer, Corey Geiger (vice chair), Pam Molitor, Steve Fairchild, Van Holmes, Harlen Persinger, Steve Werblow, Jennifer Kiel

Kacey Birchmier, 2014 Andy Markwart Horizon Award recipient

From left: Barry Nelson, John Deere; Kacey Birchmier, *Successful Farming*, a Meredith Agrimedia brand; Gil Gullickson, past PIF chair



PIF Desk Calendar Raises Funds

Each new and renewing member of AAEA received a 2015 desk calendar featuring award-winning AAEA photography. This initiative raised nearly \$350 for the foundation. The 2016 calendar will feature the latest award-winning photos. This project is a collaboration between PIF and Boelte-Hall. Additional calendars may be purchased online or by contacting aaea@gandgcomm.com.

AAEA Summer Interns

Allison Fortner, AAEA marcomm intern, working with American Hereford Association.

Josh Booth, AAEA editorial intern, working with Vance Publishing.



THANK YOU FOR THESE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PIF:

- \$25,000 AAEA through Ag Media Summit net revenue (2014 Indianapolis)
- \$5,625 Donations through member renewals
- \$3,000 Past presidents contributions