



## Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation

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### FOUR RECEIVE 2012 AGRISCIENCE AWARDS

*A Professor at University of Arkansas; a High School Educator from Iowa;  
and two High School Agriscience Students from Florida and New York  
Receive \$17,000 in Monetary Awards*

**July 10, 2012, Washington, D.C.** – On July 10, the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation and the American Farm Bureau Federation will hold the Third Annual *Agriscience Awards* presenting \$17,000 in monetary awards at a luncheon ceremony in Washington, D.C.

"Today we honor four remarkable individuals who are involved in a wide range of agricultural pursuits," said Maria Lombardo, Ed.D., Chair of the Foundation. "From a global leader in agricultural scientific research, to a high school educator who immerses his students in agricultural studies, to two high school students who are conducting groundbreaking research, this year's *Agriscience Awards* recipients are truly inspirational," said Dr. Lombardo.

#### **AGRISCIENCE AWARDS**

***\$10,000 Distinguished Agriscience Scientist Award - Andrew Sharpley, Ph.D.***, Professor in the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, Division of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR. Dr. Sharpley's research investigates the fate of phosphorus in soil-plant-water systems in relation to soil productivity and the effects of agricultural management on water quality. He also evaluates the role of stream and river sediments in modifying phosphorus transport and response of receiving lakes and reservoirs. He developed decision-making tools for agricultural field staff to identify sensitive areas of the landscape and to target management alternatives and remedial measures that have reduced the risk of nutrient loss from farms. Dr. Sharpley works closely with producers, farmers and action agencies, stressing the dissemination and application of his research findings.

"I am both humbled and extremely proud to receive the *Distinguished Agriscience Scientist Award*. It means a great deal to me to receive it from those who use and benefit from our research," said Dr. Sharpley. "I believe this award recognizes my colleagues in ARS and now the Division of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas, who help shaped me as a scientist and gave me the freedom to develop. It also recognizes the support Arkansas Farm Bureau has given in promoting the science of conservation and environmental stewardship to its member farmers," he said.

***\$5,000 Agriscience Educator Award - Matthew Eddy***, Teacher, Southeast Polk High School, Pleasant Hill, IA. Mr. Eddy has taught agriculture education for 13 years, teaching at Southeast Polk for the past eight years. Participating in the inaugural CASE curriculum institute in 2009, he earned the level of Master Teacher in 2012. Matthew's agriculture program emphasizes STEM concepts in agriculture, a rigorous curriculum that has been recognized on the State and national level. He was recently recognized as having the Iowa Outstanding High School Agriculture Education program and as a finalist for the National FFA Agriscience Teacher Award.

"I am very honored to be named the 2012 *Agriscience Educator Award* winner," said Mr. Eddy. "I am truly excited about the innovative CASE curriculum we have created to highlight STEM connections involved in agriculture for students who will become the future agrarians of our world," Eddy said.

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***\$1,000 Agriscience Student Award - Jill Dolowich***, Senior, Jericho High School, Jericho, NY. Jill has developed a strong interest in environmentalism and conservation through her extensive entomology research at both Yale University and Michigan State University. She was interested in exploring honeybee populations, and ultimately her goal was to spread the word about the environmental impact of declining insect populations. In 2011, Jill was selected as a National Young Naturalist Award Winner and as a semifinalist in the 2012 Intel Science Talent Search competition. Jill has been involved in many activities throughout high school. Her passion for writing about scientific and environmental news led to her role as New York Correspondent for Mother Nature Network. She also authored an article entitled, "Flight of the Honeybees," in the Johns Hopkins University national online publication ([Cogito.org](http://Cogito.org)). In the Fall, Jill will attend Yale University, where she plans to major in Biology and Environmental Studies.

***\$1,000 Agriscience Student Award - Michelle Chin***, Junior, West Shore Jr./Sr. High School, Melbourne, FL. Michelle's science research concentrates on genetic engineering and biotechnology using organic and transgenic crops. Under the supervision of Dr. Sixue Chen at the University of Florida, she worked on her project that uses plants to phytoremediate selenium contaminants, an effective, inexpensive and non-intrusive means of in situ reduction and removal of environmental contaminants. Michelle was a finalist at the 2012 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, as well as one of five Florida delegates to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> National Junior Science & Humanities Symposium. She hopes her research will aid worldwide efforts to alleviate chemical run-off and environmental pollution. In 2011, Michelle won the Green Connection scholarship, sponsored by the French government, and studied environmental protection in Paris and La Rochelle for two weeks. Her trip to France fostered her passion for protecting the environment which led her to create a website to promote sustainability. She was recently selected as one of the 2012 Ying's Scholars in the Dr. Nelson Ying Science Competition, which encourages students to help humanity through science research.

The Foundation and American Farm Bureau Federation have formed a public-private partnership to sponsor four ***Agriscience Awards***. The competition was open to scientists, high school educators and high school students around the country who are judged to exemplify excellence in the field of Agriscience, and to highlight the importance of agriculture in the 21st century.

### **Sponsors**

The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation is an independent Federal government agency established by Congress in 1992 to "encourage and support research, study and labor designed to produce new discoveries in all fields of endeavor for the benefit of mankind." The Foundation has created ***Frontiers of Discovery–Work in Progress and Discover the Future*** programs that honor "cutting edge" innovations and promote innovative ideas of America's scientists, educators and youth. For more information, please visit: [www.columbusfdn.org](http://www.columbusfdn.org) or contact Judi Shellenberger at: (315) 258-0090.

The America Farm Bureau Federation is the unified national voice of agriculture, working through our grassroots state and county Farm Bureaus to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans and to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities. Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization governed by and representing farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity and social advancement and, thereby, to promote the national well-being.