

## George Washington Carver Scholar Award

This award aims to empower and uplift students from historically underrepresented groups in the United States who aspire to pursue careers in plant breeding. Targeting both undergraduate and graduate students, particularly those in the early stages of their academic journey, we strive to foster their long-term success in the field. Our commitment extends beyond a one-time sponsorship of their registration to our annual meeting; we actively facilitate connections with a dedicated NAPB mentor.

In recognizing the importance of diversity, we seek to ensure that the future generation of plant breeders reflects the rich tapestry of individuals we aim to serve. Through this initiative, we enthusiastically welcome aspiring scientists who may not have previously considered a path in plant improvement. By providing opportunities for networking and engagement with like-minded peers, we aim to broaden horizons and inspire a more diverse cohort of individuals to contribute to the field.

The benefits of this award extend beyond the immediate conference experience. Recipients not only gain access to the NAPB Annual Conference with a paid registration but also seize the chance to showcase their interests and work to the wider NAPB community. The invaluable connection with an NAPB mentor is a cornerstone of this initiative, offering a supportive relationship that goes beyond mere guidance. Participating in mentee-mentor networking sessions and the NAPB George Washington Carver Award Lunch Discussion further enriches the experience, providing a platform for shared insights and perspectives.

In recognizing the importance of mentorship, we emphasize that the mentor-mentee relationship need not end with the conclusion of the annual meeting. Both parties are encouraged to consent to maintaining contact, ensuring a sustained and meaningful connection beyond the initial interaction. Through these efforts, we strive to create an inclusive and supportive environment that not only aids in the immediate advancement of aspiring plant breeders but also contributes to a more diverse and vibrant future for the field.

2024 GWCS Mentee Application:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfArSZZw7t89ZW29jmgO\\_Alp8VIMVmymN3Qor7xwPybywPjPQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfArSZZw7t89ZW29jmgO_Alp8VIMVmymN3Qor7xwPybywPjPQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

2024 GWCS Mentor Application:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf\\_2ZguYp9Aoo5i2f2nH5Or8Daf0n-QKdv7-MCkCpgoCkMzUg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_2ZguYp9Aoo5i2f2nH5Or8Daf0n-QKdv7-MCkCpgoCkMzUg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

If you have any question regarding GWCS program, please reach out [gw.carver.scholars@plantbreeding.org](mailto:gw.carver.scholars@plantbreeding.org)