



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

CERES Scholarships Established

Ceres, Inc, a plant biotechnology company, has established two new scholarships in the Soil & Crop Sciences Department at Texas A&M University.

The new scholarships are available to both junior and senior students who have a minimum overall GPA of 2.8. Students with interests in plant breeding, agronomy, plant physiology, or molecular biology with strong interests in crop production relating to biofuels will be given preference.

Ceres is developing crops needed by farmers and bio-refineries for a new generation of biofuels. Using advanced plant breeding and biotechnology, they are creating dedicated energy crops as raw materials for biofuels made from plant stems, stalks and leaves. Dr. David Baltensperger, Department Head, said *"We are excited about establishing a long term scholarship relationship with Ceres to expose our students to opportunities in bioenergy."* Charles Rodgers, Ph.D., a Ceres plant breeder based in College Station, said that the company hoped that the scholarships would encourage more students to consider careers in crop science. *"The expansion of biofuel production is creating new opportunities in agriculture - many that simply didn't exist just a few years ago. New crops are being domesticated and developed. There's new sources of funding from government and industry. And for students, new career paths,"* said Dr. Rodgers, who is the first commercial switchgrass breeder in the country.



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Seniors, Luke Manning and Scott Stanislav (pictured above), are the first students to receive the \$2500 scholarships from Ceres. They both expect to graduate May, 2008, with B.S. degrees in Agronomy.



For more information, visit <http://ceres.net> and <http://soilcrop.tamu.edu>.