

S497 Gary “Pete” Peterson Dryland Soil Management Scholarship Committee

A. Status: Special Committee

B. Composition and Tenure:

The Committee consists of the Chair plus a minimum of 4 but not more than 6 members. The selection committee will be appointed by the President of the Soil Science Society of America.

The term of office for committee members is two years.

The Chair serves for one year.

C. Functions:

1. To encourage applications for this scholarship.
2. To become familiar with the Guidelines and Procedures for this scholarship and to be responsible that all applications fulfill the required criteria of eligibility for the scholarship.
3. To evaluate applications and to select the most outstanding applicant for the scholarship.

D. Procedure:

1. The SSSA Headquarters Office distributes the applications to the Committee members and advises them of the scoring or ranking to be followed. The Chair transmits any special instructions to members.
2. The Chair does not vote, unless in the case of a tie, then votes to break the tie.
3. The Chair reports the results of the Committee’s selection process to the Headquarters office.
4. The Chair submits an annual report as requested by the Society, indicating the number of applicants and the name of the recipient.

E. Presidential Responsibilities:

The SSSA President:

1. Appoints new members to replace those whose terms expire and appoints the Chair of the Committee.
2. Cooperates with the Committee in its activities, as appropriate or in response to need.
3. Notifies the Committee directly of all deadlines on award selection, annual report, etc.
4. Receives and takes action directly, or by referring to the SSSA Executive Committee and/or Board of Directors, as appropriate, all suggestions and/or recommendations for action from the Committee.

F. Description of Scholarship:

The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage students to pursue research and careers in dryland soil management and to honor the teaching and research career of Gary “Pete” Peterson. Pete’s career emphasis has been the application of soil science principles to the solution of field-level soil management problems.

Dryland farming is defined herein as a special case of rain fed agriculture practiced in arid and semiarid regions in which annual precipitation is about 35% of potential evapotranspiration. Conditions of moderate to severe moisture stress occur during a substantial part of the year, greatly limiting yield potential. Dryland farming emphasizes water conservation in all practices throughout the year.

The scholarship was established by friends and colleagues of Gary “Pete” Peterson, a prominent and highly respected soil scientist and former president of SSSA (2008). Funds for the scholarship are made available by the Agronomic Science Foundation and administered by the Soil Science Society of America. The Scholarship award given annually shall be in the amount of \$5,000 through the year 2020, thereafter determined annually by the ASF Board.

G. Eligibility Requirements:

- a) Applicants shall be enrolled in a graduate-level degree program in the Soil Sciences curriculum of an accredited university located in the United States.
- b) Applicants shall be in good academic standing with a GPA of 3.5 or better on a 4 point scale.
- c) Applicants shall exhibit evidence of leadership activities within their school or community.
- d) Applicants shall have future plans related to a career in Soil Science.
- e) Applicants shall be a citizen of a North American country: the United States, Canada, or Mexico
- f) Previous awardees are eligible for renewal of the scholarship.
- g) Applicants may self-nominate for this scholarship.
- h) No fees will be charged to applicants for this scholarship.
- i) Current M.S. or Ph.D. students and current undergraduate students accepted for a graduate program pursuing a degree in dryland soil and crop management or closely related field are eligible to apply.
- j) Preference will be given to nominees whose research focuses on practical issues that involve field experiments.

I. Scoring or Ranking Procedure:

Each member of the committee ranks the applicants in order from 1 to n (the number of applicants). Each member’s ranking is conveyed to the Chair, who totals the points received by each applicant. The scholarship recipient(s) is the applicant receiving the lowest score. The Chair only votes to break a tie. The scholarship need not be presented in a given year if it is judged that the applicants do not meet the criteria.

J. Revising Guidelines or Procedures:

The scholarship committee may recommend changes or revisions relative to criteria, description, selection process of recipients, etc., for this scholarship. All recommendations must be approved by the SSSA Board of Directors or Executive Committee before said recommendations may be implemented. It is preferable to submit recommendations through the Society Awards Chair; however, recommendations may be submitted through the President or directly to the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.