



News Release

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NPC Awards 2012-13 Academic Scholarship to Michigan State Graduate Student



Washington, D.C. – The National Potato Council (NPC) is pleased to award Michael Hardigan, graduate student in Michigan State University’s Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biotechnology Program, its 2012-13 Academic Scholarship. Hardigan’s coursework is focused on developing the skills to implement modern, highly advanced genetic and genomics techniques that NPC believes will continue to enhance U.S. potato production.

Hardigan is currently involved in research projects to identify drought tolerance characteristics in wild potatoes as well as the genes responsible for hybrid vigor, which contribute to fitness and result in larger tuber yields. “These projects, along with my ambition to pursue a future career in potato research, will play an important role in moving U.S. potato production forward into the 21st Century,” Hardigan said.

Each year, NPC awards one \$5,000 scholarship to a graduate student pursuing advanced studies to enhance the potato industry. Hardigan stood out in a field of qualified applicants, all of whom are helping to push the industry towards a strong future. Final scholarship selection was based on academic achievement, leadership abilities, and the potential commercial value of the applicant’s academic work.

The National Potato Council is the advocate for the economic well-being of U.S. potato growers on federal legislative, regulatory, environmental, and trade issues. Potato growers, along with the U.S. potato industry as a whole, directly benefit from involvement in the National Potato Council. NPC supports the U.S. potato industry by monitoring issues affecting the strength and viability of the potato industry, influencing regulators and legislators on issues crucial to the industry's long term success, ensuring fair market access for potatoes and potato products, and bringing the unique issues and interests of diverse growing regions in the U.S. together on a national level. The National Potato Council is a voluntary organization supported by quota assessments from state organizations, allied industry memberships and sponsorships, and directly by potato growers through membership dues.

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