

STUDENT CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

By Shelby French, Membership Committee Chair



The IPPS Eastern Region Student Conference Scholarship program hosted 15 students to the Madison, Wisconsin conference in October. Additionally, 8 Landscape Architecture students from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville attended tours on Thursday. David Moulthrop, College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL, said, "Overall, the conference was a great opportunity to learn about plant propagation and production while also cultivating relationships with horticulturists, plant breeders, and nursery professionals from across the country. I'm already looking forward to the next conference!"

The program is in its third year and continues to grow and reach new students. This year, recipients came from as far away as Ontario, New York, and Connecticut while the majority attended from Wisconsin and nearby states of Illinois and Minnesota. We were even able to host a student from the Ivory Coast of Africa who is part of a one-year exchange program at the College of DuPage in Illinois. It is the goal of the Membership Committee to focus on academic institutions local to where the conference is being held that year by reaching out to horticulture and trade schools. The scholarship covers the full conference registration; most students put forth their own funds for travel. This year, however, we were able to offer a few students modest funds towards their travel.

During the Friday morning sessions students gathered for a meet-and-greet with various IPPS members, representing educators, non-profit, for-profit and the nursery industry. After a brief introduction, students had the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback which was an incredible time of seeking and sharing! "While waiting for the student meet and greet to start, I was standing next to the student resume board and an IPPS member asked me if my resume was up there. It was and so we started chatting. He gave me his business card and said he would like to connect me to a colleague in Florida who is looking to hire. So that was pretty cool. Thank you so much! I am very excited about the future of IPPS and will

continue to be a member,” commented Katrina Harris Portwood of Rochester Community & Technical College in Rochester, MN

During the evening small and large groups headed out to the plethora of dining options in downtown Madison. Great Dane Brew Pub did a fabulous job hosting a group of 25 IPPSers, including 9 of the students.

Students across the board offered their thanks for the support and appreciation for the experience. Rachel Conley (Naugatuck Valley Community College, Waterbury, CT) said, “I was pleasantly surprised to find that it seemed like the more established the person was in the plant world, the more likely they were to seek out the students and make us feel welcome and engage with us. That's not something you find in many professions and I was so grateful to everyone who took the time to reach out.”



Katrina Harris Portwood, left with Student Scholarship Chair, Shelby French on tour.



Marie-Honoree Kadio-Morokro from the Ivory Coast of Africa attended during her one-year exchange program at the College of DuPage in Illinois.