



## 2012 Scholarship Announcement

The National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees (NOPHNCSE) has the mission to motivate and mentor members for leadership roles to assist NRCS and partners in delivering natural resources conservation. Following our mission, NOPHNCSE is proud to present the 2012 scholarship program.

This year NOPHNCSE will award two \$1,000.00 academic scholarships to qualified students that are pursuing a degree in an Agriculture, Natural Resources, or Natural Resources Conservation related field of study at an accredited school of higher education.

### Student Eligibility Requirements:

- Graduating High School students accepted to an accredited college or university and registered students with at least one full academic year remaining before graduation.
- Demonstrate integrity, ability, and competence in work
- Show interest in pursuing a career in Natural Resources Conservation
- Have a grade point average of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale
- Submit a complete application package which includes: application form and requested documentation
- Must show proof of U.S. citizenship - copy of Birth Certificate or Naturalization Certificate only

In addition to the scholarships mentioned above, NOPHNCSE offers two specially funded scholarships, established by notable members and their families to encourage new generations of Hispanics to pursue careers in Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation. The eligibility criteria are as follow:

- Martha Guerra-Arteaga Scholarship: Scholarship for a female student with a major in Public Affairs, Communications or Natural Resources Conservation.
- Ray T. Margo Scholarship: Scholarship for a student pursuing a major in Range Management and is going into their Junior or Senior year at an accredited university.

The National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees plans an annual conference. The winning students are invited and highly encouraged to attend; however, with the changing budgetary environment for federal agencies, there may not be a 2012 the Annual Training Conference. If held, the conference experience is an excellent opportunity to network and build relationships with members of the organization and NRCS employees in different working areas and states. Travel cost of scholarship recipients will be covered. In addition to the scholarship winners, NOPHNCSE may award up to three separate paid conference TRAVEL ONLY opportunities to qualified applicants to attend the conference.

The following is the scholarship application form and guidelines for completing and submitting the application. Due date for consideration is **April 2, 2012**.

For more information please contact:

Heydsha R. Cordero-Rodriguez  
[Scholarships@nophncse.org](mailto:Scholarships@nophncse.org)  
Phone: (410) 822-1577 x112 (w)

Web Site: <http://www.nophncse.org>

**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL HISPANIC  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES**

**2012 Scholarship Application**

The National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPHNCSE) provides scholarships to deserving Hispanic students that wish to pursue or are pursuing a Bachelors degree in a Natural Resources or a Natural Resources Conservation-related field of study at an accredited four-year institution.

Apply ONLINE: download the application form at <http://www.nophncse.org/index.php/scholarships/62-scholarshipsmain>. Complete, sign, scan and submit the digital application with all documents required to the following email address: [scholarships@nophncse.org](mailto:scholarships@nophncse.org). For questions or more information, contact

Heydsha R. Cordero-Rodriguez  
[Scholarships@nophncse.org](mailto:Scholarships@nophncse.org)  
Phone: (410) 822-1577 x112 (w)

**Completed application package must be postmarked by April 2, 2012.**

Incomplete or late applications will not be evaluated.

Circle one:    Male    Female

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from above)

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date (Mo/Day/Yr): \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Place (State and Country): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of High School or  
College you are currently attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student Number (not Social Security number, if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Year of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Overall GPA (on a 4.0 scale): \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Citizenship: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No.

Note: **Scholarship Applications will not be processed without proof of U.S. Citizenship.**

How did you receive this application? \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

The following items must be submitted along with this signed application form. Failure to submit a complete 2012 NOPHNCSE Scholarship Application package will result in you forfeiting any opportunity to be selected for a 2012 NOPHNCSE Scholarship.

**The following items constitute a complete 2012 NOPHNCSE Scholarship Application package:**

1. Submit this completed application with your signature;
2. Submit a personal statement of 350 to 500 words in length (double-spaced) in English. Please include information such as personal background, name of school(s) you plan to attend or are attending, personal and career goals, extracurricular activities and your special interest in pursuing a conservation career in natural resources such as; soil science, agronomy, soil conservation, range science or engineering. You may also include other information that you feel is important (remember not to exceed 500 words);
3. Submit a copy of an official or certified high school or college transcript; non-official digital documents will not be accepted;
4. Submit two letters of recommendation in English from a High School teacher(s)/counselor(s), College professor(s) employer or supervisor.
5. Proof of U.S. citizenship (copy of Birth Certificate or Naturalization Certificate). Only copies of these documents will be accepted. Copies of passport or naturalization application will NOT be accepted. If your application does not include the required documents the application will be disqualified.
6. Graduating high school applicants, submit a copy of a letter of acceptance from the college you plan to attend.

~ Note: Receipt of a NOPHNCSE Scholarship does not constitute a guarantee of future employment with the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other federal agency.

**Certification:**

I certify that all the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Providing false information may result in the recall of any scholarship granted or in the forfeiture of any scholarship awarded.

I am aware that any scholarship awarded by NOPHNCSE will be disbursed through my University Financial Aid Office. If I am selected to receive a NOPHNCSE Scholarship, I will utilize the NOPHNCSE award toward expenses related to my college attendance. I also understand I can receive this award only one time.

I understand that proof of college enrollment will be required if selected and that I must notify my University Financial Aid Office and NOPHNCSE of any changes to my enrollment status. I further understand that changes to my enrollment status may result in the cancellation of any award provided. I hereby acknowledge that it is my responsibility to keep my institution's Financial Aid Office and NOPHNCSE informed of all address changes.

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to submit a complete application package to NOPHNCSE in compliance with the posted deadline. Incomplete or late application materials will disqualify my scholarship application package and I will not be considered for any award. All application materials become the property of NOPHNCSE. I hereby give NOPHNCSE permission to share this information for the purpose of recruitment, public relations, or possible employment.

I hereby certify that I have read the application information and guidelines, as well as this Certification, and that I understand and accept all of the conditions specified. Failure to sign this Certification will result in my ineligibility for this Scholarship Award.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# **National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees Scholarship Program 2012 Information and Guidelines**

The United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) was first organized in 1933, as the Soil Erosion Service and was later known as the Soil Conservation Service. In 1994, USDA went through reorganization and the Agency's name became the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Agency's purpose has always been, and continues to be, the promotion of the conservation and wise use of our country's natural resources. USDA-NRCS employees possess backgrounds in a variety of disciplines that includes agronomy, agricultural engineering, animal science, civil engineering, computer science, crops science, hydrology, range science, soil science, wildlife science, financial management and several other disciplines.

NRCS accomplishes its conservation goals by drawing upon the various sciences and conservation disciplines to help private landowners conserve their soil, natural resources and water and air resources. NRCS employees and private land users assess the land's capabilities and resources along with the existing conservation problems and opportunities. NRCS employees then work closely with agricultural producers and landowners to assist them in developing conservation plans and with the implementation of conservation practices while achieving their production goals and objectives. Through the implementation of conservation practices, the overall quality of life within a watershed and across our country is improved.

The National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees (NOPHNCSE) was established as a Professional Society of Natural Resources Conservation Service employee. NOPHNCSE promotes the belief that Hispanics can and should fill an existing, invaluable void in the protection of our country's natural resources and the wise use of our agricultural and recreational private lands. NOPHNCSE was created to assist the USDA-NRCS with its delivery of program information and program benefits to minority and non-minority communities; to showcase the value that Hispanics bring to the USDA-NRCS; to demonstrate the role of Hispanics in a diverse, multi-cultural workforce; and to serve as a strong link between the USDA-NRCS and the Hispanic community.

NOPHNCSE was organized to augment the outreach programs of USDA and NRCS, and to enhance USDA Program Delivery. Internally, NOPHNCSE has vowed to assist USDA-NRCS achieve a multicultural workforce and to assist with the recruitment and professional development of quality Natural Resources Conservation Service Hispanic employees.

With this Scholarship Program, NOPHNCSE achieves one of its founding goals, "to develop and establish a NOPHNCSE Scholarship & Endowment Fund." NOPHNCSE intends to support Hispanics goals of higher education and to encourage Hispanics to become protectors of our country's natural resources through this Scholarship and Endowment Fund Program.

NOPHNCSE wishes to provide scholarships to deserving Hispanic students who wish to pursue, are currently enrolled in, or are admitted to an accredited four year institution with the intent of earning a Bachelor of Science degree in a natural resources field or a natural resources conservation-related field of study.

Candidates elected to receive the 2012 NOPHNCSE Scholarship will be selected on the basis of academic achievement, personal strengths, demonstrated leadership abilities, and career goals. NOPHNCSE will accept Scholarship Applications postmarked by April 2, 2012.

The NOPHNCSE Scholarship Committee will determine the 2012 NOPHNCSE recipients utilizing established selection criteria. Each applicant will be evaluated on the basis of their complete Scholarship Application package that must include the items above. The NOPHNCSE Scholarship Committee is organized and administered by the NOPHNCSE National Council. Additional travel scholarships may be awarded to students to attend the annual NOPHNCSE conference.

**To learn more about NOPHNCSE or USDA-NRCS please explore our web pages at <http://www.nophncse.org> or <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>, respectively.**