



2019 NOPHNCSE 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 2019 NOPHNCSE scholarship program.

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

Student Eligibility Requirements:

- Be US Citizen and show proof of U.S. citizenship - copy of Birth Certificate or Naturalization Certificate. **This will only be required if the application is selected as a winner.**
- Graduating High School students accepted to an accredited college or university and registered students with at least one full academic year remaining before completing undergraduate education. Demonstrate integrity, ability, and competence in work. **Graduate students are not eligible for this scholarship.**
- 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

One of the three scholarships NOPHNCSE offers is a specially funded scholarship established by a notable member and her family to encourage new generations of Hispanics to pursue careers in Public Affairs, Agriculture or Natural Resources Conservation. The Martha Guerra-Arteaga Scholarship is specifically for a female student with a major in Public Affairs, Communications or Natural Resources Conservation.

Martha Guerra-Arteaga was born May 27, 1967 in McAllen, Texas. Martha graduated from Texas A & M University in 1989 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech Communication. Martha served as a Public Affairs Specialist for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation (NRCS) for thirteen years. During her years of service, she received the prestigious USDA Group Honor Award from the Chief of the NRCS for providing outstanding outreach programs aimed at the Hispanic Community and socially disadvantaged. She was a member of the National Organization of Professional Hispanic NRCS Employees and the Southwest Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society

The following is the scholarship application form and guidelines for completing and submitting the application. Due date for consideration is **May 4th, 2019**.

For additional information, please contact:

Kellyam Valle-Cancel
Scholarships@nophncse.org
Phone: (910)-592-7963 ext. 3279

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

Name: _____

The following items must be submitted along with this signed application form. Failure to submit a complete 2019 NOPHNCSE Scholarship Application package will result in you forfeiting any opportunity to be selected for a 2019 NOPHNCSE Scholarship.

The following items constitute a complete 2019 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. 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 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 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 2019 NOPHNRCSE 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 include 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 (NOPHNRCSE) was established as a Professional Society of Natural Resources Conservation Service employee. NOPHNRCSE 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. NOPHNRCSE 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.

NOPHNRCSE was organized to augment the outreach programs of USDA and NRCS, and to enhance USDA Program Delivery. Internally, NOPHNRCSE 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, NOPHNRCSE achieves one of its founding goals, "to develop and establish a NOPHNRCSE Scholarship & Endowment Fund." NOPHNRCSE 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.

NOPHNRCSE 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 2019 NOPHNRCSE Scholarship will be selected based on academic achievement, personal strengths, demonstrated leadership abilities, and career goals. NOPHNRCSE will accept Scholarship Applications postmarked by **May 4th, 2019**.

The NOPHNRCSE Scholarship Committee will determine the 2019 NOPHNRCSE recipients utilizing established selection criteria. Each applicant will be evaluated based on their complete Scholarship Application package that must include the items above. The NOPHNRCSE Scholarship Committee is organized and administered by the NOPHNRCSE National Council.

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