



2026 Scholarship Opportunities

The Desert Valleys Chapter of the California Association of Pest Control Advisers (CAPCA) annually awards scholarships to deserving high school and college students who reside in the desert regions of Southern California and Western Arizona. The Desert Valleys Chapter includes members from the Coachella, Imperial, Bard and Palo Verde Valleys of California, as well as the Yuma, Gila, Dome, Wellton-Mohawk, and Parker Valleys of Arizona. The following scholarships are available this year.

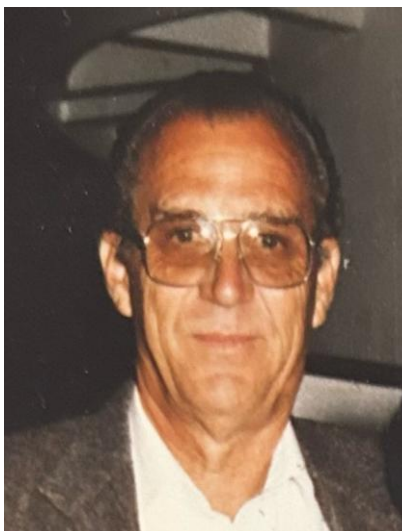
1. **High School scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors with the following qualifications:**
 - An interest in the field of agriculture (e.g. agronomy, entomology, soil science, or related disciplines).
 - Plans to pursue higher education in an agricultural major or plans to pursue a future career in the agriculture industry (e.g. pest management, agronomy, plant breeding, farming, or related field).
2. **College scholarship is available to undergraduate college students with the following qualifications:**
 - Currently pursuing an Associate's or Bachelor's degree in an agricultural major (e.g. agronomy, entomology, soil science, or related disciplines).
 - Plans to pursue a future career in the agriculture industry (e.g. pest management, agronomy, plant breeding, farming, or related field).
3. **Bob Chan Memorial Scholarship:**
 - Desert Valleys along with the Bob Chan Family offer a scholarship in Bob's memory to a college student from the Imperial Valley.
 - This scholarship is specifically for a full-time (entering or continuing) student from Imperial Valley, California with a minimum GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). The student must be attending a four-year college or university and currently pursuing a degree in an agricultural major (e.g. agronomy, entomology, soil science, or related disciplines). They must also plan to pursue a future career in the agriculture industry (e.g. pest management, agronomy, plant breeding, farming, or related field).
4. **Jim Wavra Memorial Scholarship:**
 - In partnership with local PCAs and friends of Jim, the Desert Valleys Chapter of CAPCA created this scholarship to continue Jim's legacy of commitment and leadership in the community.
5. **Rich Waegner Memorial Scholarship:**
 - This scholarship honors the legacy of Rich Waegner, one of the founding Pest Control Advisers in the Imperial Valley. This scholarship is made possible through the generous support of Desert Valleys CAPCA, along with friends and members of the agricultural community who contributed to the scholarship fund.



Bob Chan was involved in Imperial Valley agribusiness for over fifty years – including positions as a produce packing inspector, grower, and fertilizer salesperson. In the mid-1970's, he started his long career as a pest control adviser, which led Bob to being one of the founding fathers of the California Association of Pest Control Advisers (CAPCA). After Bob's death in December 2017, his family, in association with the Desert Valleys Chapter of CAPCA, established the CAPCA Desert Valleys Chapter Bob Chan Memorial Scholarship.



James "Jim" Wavra was a lifelong resident of Imperial County. Jim began working in agriculture as a tractor driver at the early age of 14. After completing college, Jim returned to Brawley and established his own consulting company, Jim Wavra Entomology Service. Jim had extensive knowledge of the agricultural industry in the Imperial Valley, especially onion cultivation. Because of his knowledge he became a trusted advisor to many Imperial Valley farmers. In addition to his consulting, he farmed sugar beets with family members. For many years Jim served local growers with professionalism and passion for agriculture.



Charles Richard "Rich" Waegner worked for the Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner's office for nearly 20 years as an inspector and deputy commissioner. In 1979, he was hired as a pest control adviser by Rockwood Chemical Company where he worked until 2016. Later in his career he served as President. Rich was an avid collector of many things including antiques and rocks. He enjoyed dove hunting, reading and studying plant pathology, and gardening. He was great at identifying birds, collecting seeds, growing his native plants.

Please complete the application in full. Attach your 1-page essay, transcripts, letters of recommendation, and signature page, and email all materials to the CAPCA Desert Valleys Scholarship Committee Chair, Viki Clark.

***Emails must be received by 5:00 PM on Friday, May 1st, 2026. Any applications not complete and/or received after this deadline will not be reviewed or considered. Please be sure all requirements are met. The final page of this application provides details.**

Viki Clark
Scholarship Committee Chair
CAPCA Desert Valleys Chapter
vlclark@iid.com

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact Viki Clark or any CAPCA Desert Valleys Chapter board member.

2026 Scholarship Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Birth Date / Age: _____

In which California / Arizona Valley do you reside? Mark an "X" in right hand column.

1. Imperial	
2. Yuma / Parker / Gila / Dome / Wellton-Mowhawk	
3. Bard / Palo Verde	
4. Coachella	

*** For areas with multiple valleys, please write the specific valley next to your "X" in the right-hand column.*

High School or College currently attending: _____

College Student Identification Number: _____

College recipient(s) will need to provide their student identification number for payment processing. Scholarship payments will be made directly to the institution you are attending.

GPA / College Major: _____

SHORT RESPONSE SECTION

Be sure to answer all of the following questions and submit your essay. Both are requirements for a complete application. You may complete these questions on a separate page, however be sure you answer each question entirely.

1. Please describe your career goals:

2. Work Experience:

3. Honors or Recognitions:

6. Special Interests and Activities:

APPLICATION CHECKLIST and SIGNATURE PAGE

Please include all the following items as part of your application package:

1. A 1-page essay describing why you have chosen agriculture as your future career and how this scholarship will help you meet your future educational and career goals.
2. Please include an official copy of your high school or college transcripts.
3. Please include 3 letters of recommendation.
4. Completed Application and Signature (Pages 4–6): Please answer all questions in the application. Additional pages may be attached if necessary. Be sure the application is signed and dated.

Please note:

- If you are selected as an award recipient, you will be required to show proof of enrollment prior to receiving payment. Payments will be made directly to the institution you will be attending.
- Additionally, please write thank you letters to the people responsible for the scholarship. This would include a letter to the Desert Valleys CAPCA Chapter Scholarship Committee. An additional letter will be required addressed to the families of those being honored with a memorial scholarship. You can contact Viki Clark for more information and mailing addresses.
- By applying for this scholarship, you are also agreeing that your name, likeness, and submitted materials may be used in any public association with the award or the scholarship program.

Please read and agree to the following by signing this application:

I have completed this application honestly and accurately, and I understand that all the information provided in connection with this application is subject to verification.

Signature: _____ Date: _____