

# Making a Difference

## *Promoting and Improving Natural Resource Education Through Excellence in K-12 Teaching Awards and College Student Scholarships*

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Photos courtesy **CONSERVATION LEGACY**, *except where noted*



Students from Vanguard College Preparatory School use their new Texas Stream Team equipment to conduct monthly water quality samples on Lake Waco.

**T**exas wildlife has a bright future. Many of our state's universities are training exceptional people to help ensure the land, water and wildlife resources are managed in ways that will allow them to continue to be some of Texas' greatest assets. Since 2004, San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc. (S.A.L.E.) has partnered with the Texas Wildlife Association Foundation (TWAF) to help fulfill the mission to expand and deploy

new conservation education programs across the state of Texas.

Through this partnership, S.A.L.E. and Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) Conservation Legacy programs have educated over 2.7 million Texans about our state's diverse, abundant wildlife and natural resources, and the importance of healthy land stewardship. Conservation Legacy programs include a wide range of educational programs including public

events such as the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo, classroom presentations, hands-on field investigation days, land management field days and webinars.

S.A.L.E. has generously funded the Natural Resource – Excellence in Teaching Award for over a decade to teachers who demonstrate use of innovative techniques and curricula in their schools to promote and improve agriculture and natural resource literacy among their students. Teachers receiving the awards also articulate the importance of conservation to the future of Texas and Texans to equip future decision-makers with critical thinking skills. Four teachers were awarded \$2,000 each, and five teachers were awarded \$1,200 each for the 2016-2017 school year.

The recipients are:

Jack Reed – Killeen High School

Tiffany Deschler – Westbrook Intermediate School

Michaela McCowan – Vanguard College Preparatory School

James Bendele – Central Catholic High School

CG Guerrero – Stephen F. Austin High School

Amalia Patterson – Shady Grove Elementary

Sue Moore – Silsbee High School

Laura Kusak – Moulton Elementary

Medina Willis – Lanier High School.





In addition, TWAF and S.A.L.E. are also working to ensure the educational success of college students by awarding annual scholarships to deserving applicants. Students may major in any field, but selection is based upon their focus on natural resource management and must exemplify the TWA mission of “Serving

Texas wildlife and its habitat, while protecting property rights, hunting heritage and the conservation efforts of those who value and steward wildlife resources.”

This year’s recipients are:

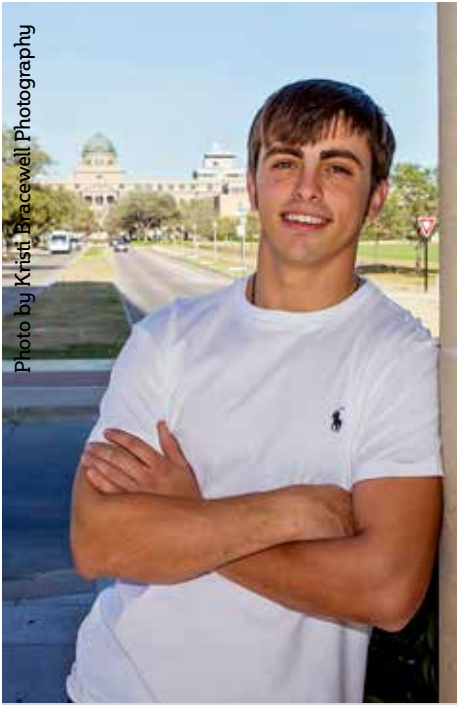


Photo by Kristi Bracewell Photography

Stetson Dierlam – Texas A&M University



William Fair – Texas Tech University



Colton Leopold – Texas A&M University



Samantha Merrifield – McLennan Community College



Elizabeth Schneider – Texas A&M University-Galveston

Together, TWAF and S.A.L.E. are improving opportunities and facilitating the continued education of those entering college as they develop the knowledge and skills they need as the next generation of agriculture and natural resource conservation-minded decision makers.

Thank you S.A.L.E. for this meaningful partnership to facilitate and grow agriculture and natural resource literacy within schools across Texas. These combined elements and efforts are creating tangible relationships for students between land and water while recognizing K-12 teachers and their desire to implement science-based lessons and outdoor experiences that are aligned but go above and beyond the essential academic skills. 🌱

