

December, 2025

Dear Benefactors, Supporters and Donors,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity in funding the Class of 1964 Cornell Tradition Fund. I am extremely thankful and honored to be a recipient of this award. As my first ever scholarship, it means the absolute world to me. It truly will allow me to make the most of my education, while opening new doors of possibilities.

I am a junior transfer student finishing my first semester at Cornell, with a major in Agricultural Sciences concentrating on sustainable cropping systems management. I transferred from the University at Buffalo after discovering my passion for farming and community development after volunteering on Bluebird Trail Farm in Corning, NY, where I originate from, during the summer after my sophomore year. During this time, I was also invited to work with advocacy group "Invest in our Land" at Agriculture Progress Days at Penn State where I learned about the Farm Bill and current policy and legislation. After these experiences, I took a year off school to work on the transfer process. During this time, I stayed up in Buffalo, NY where I continued to work at Creekview Veterinary Center as a Veterinary Assistant, Client Services Representative, and Doggie Daycare Staff as I had done during my last semester as a pre-veterinary student. This past summer, I went back and worked at Bluebird Trail Farm as a nature educator, CSA produce manager, and Veggie Van staff (part of Cornell Cooperative extension!). These experiences have greatly shaped me as a person and as a student: although my path isn't what I had expected it to be, I'm beyond grateful for this journey and everyone who has supported me along the way.

Being accepted into Cornell was a dream come true! Since then, I have gone all in and taken every opportunity. I have also made so many meaningful friendships with students who are equally determined to change the world just as I am. I have taken incredibly exciting courses including soil science, plant sciences and systems, sustainable agriculture, and world field cropping systems in which I have excelled in, earning grades all within the A range!

As a Cornell Tradition Fellow, I pride myself on excellence in service, leadership, and academic achievement. I have found this in Sigma Alpha, a professional agricultural sorority that promotes scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship in which I am now a member! Within this sorority, I am on the service committee

where I help develop volunteer events as a group. During the semester, a group of students and I helped our plant sciences professor plant 70,000 daffodil bulbs at the Cayuga Medical center hospital with the Ithaca Garden Club, where patients can see them bloom next spring and bring joy into their lives. On Sundays, I love working and connecting with families as a nursery attendant at the local First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca. This winter, I am travelling to Malawi with another student and professor to conduct participatory research on agroecological approaches to climate change adaptation strategies with local farmers, part of the Institute for African Development of the Einaudi Center for International Studies collaborating with Soils, Food and Healthy Communities (SFHC) and the Agile for Climate project. This will be my first ever cultural exchange, and I am beyond excited to learn from the people and experiences there!

This summer, I am hoping to secure an internship as a farm manager at Cornell's student-run farm, Dilmun Hill. I have so many ideas for community outreach, the CSA program, and agricultural experiments to try. After graduation, I would like to work on different farms throughout the world to gain more on-farm experience as well as experience in successfully running a business. After that, my goal is to create my own farming operation in which I would utilize sustainable principles. I want to serve the local community with access to fresh produce, flowers, education, cooking classes, on-farm experiences, and more. There is so much I have to offer, and I truly want to live to serve others. I can't wait to see what the future holds for me. Agriculture is a gift that keeps the world running!

Thank you again for your generous contribution! It truly makes such a difference in my life, as well as so many others. I will forever remember the joy and kindness you have presented to me. I hope you have a wonderful holiday season and new year!

Kindly,

Bryn Terwilliger

