



EDUCATION INVESTMENT

Schwarck, Roth earn ICMC scholarship for corn-related research at Purdue

BY DAVE BLOWER

Purdue University grad student Lauren Schwarck and doctoral candidate Richard Roth earned the Indiana Corn Marketing Council's (ICMC) Gary Lamie scholarship for 2019. Named in honor of former ICMC board member Gary Lamie, who died suddenly in 2013, the graduate student scholarships benefit students who conduct corn-related research that will benefit Hoosier farmers.

ICMC and Agricultural Research in the Purdue College of Agriculture collaborate to provide these funds for the Graduate Student Corn Research Assistantships. The ICMC awarded two \$25,000 assistantships to Purdue University students in the Department of Agronomy. Students will use these funds to support the research phase of their master's or doctoral programs.

"Investment in the education of future research scientists or leaders ensures productivity for corn producers and the industry by providing the latest information and research in genetics, agronomy, disease

management, insect management, and improving soil health with cover crops and marketing," explained Marshall Martin, senior associate director of agriculture research at Purdue University. "The graduate student assistantships provided by the ICMC offer excellent motivation and support for graduate student research on corn production and use."

Schwarck hails from Spencer, Iowa, and she earned her undergraduate degree from Iowa State University. Schwarck's research aims to help Hoosier farmers accurately assess their potassium (K) needs for their crop. She said 2016 research found that one-quarter of soils in Indiana tested below state-established levels for K. With little information on K management and the declining soil test, the need for K research has increased, Schwarck added.

Roth is a doctoral candidate from Divernon, Ill. He earned his undergraduate and master's degrees

from Illinois State University. Roth's research focuses on detailing cover crop management strategies to optimize corn yields. The conservation value of cover crops is at the heart of his study. Roth said within the past 10 years, Indiana has been the leader in cover crop usage – 5-10 percent of farmland. However, cover crops have not been widely used across the Midwest – only 2-5 percent of farmland.

"The goal of the program is to support graduate students whose research is relevant to the knowledge base important to the corn industry," said Denny Maple, an ICMC board member and a farmer from Greentown, Ind. "We know that success on the farm is directly correlated with continual advancements in research, and we are excited about the work we'll be funding and students we're investing in this year through the scholarship."

For more information or to apply for a 2020 scholarship, contact Dr. Marshall Martin at marshallmartin@purdue.edu.