

Neil Dierks Scholarship

Sponsored by the National Pork Industry Foundation

The National Pork Industry Foundation (NPIF) is pleased to announce the **2024 Neil Dierks Scholarship**, which is sponsored by the National Pork Industry Foundation and is managed and administered by the National Pork Producers Council.

One \$5,000 scholarship is annually awarded to a student who intends to pursue a career in the pork industry with hopes that they may emerge as a future pork industry leader.

To be eligible, applicants must:

1. Be a current or (applied for acceptance) graduate student in a swine program.
2. Prepare a cover sheet with the following information:
 - a. Name of applicant
 - b. Name of school that you completed undergraduate degree and degree title
 - c. Name of school enrolled for graduate work
 - d. Contact information (email address, cell phone number and home and school mailing addresses)
3. Share their understanding of at least one issue confronting the pork industry today or in the future, including how the applicant would address it.
4. Write a brief letter indicating what role the applicant sees themselves playing in the pork industry after their graduate program degree.
5. Obtain two letters of reference from current or former professors or industry professionals.

Essays will be judged based on clarity and expression, persuasiveness, originality and relevance of topic.

All entries must be **sent by December 31, 2023** to be accepted.

Please submit your application either through NPPC's [online form](#), email to russell@nppc.org or send materials in a single envelope to:

**National Pork Producers Council
ATTN: Neil Dierks Scholarship
P.O. Box 10383
Des Moines, IA 50306-9960**

The recipient of the Neil Dierks Scholarship will be announced at the National Pork Industry Forum in Chicago, Illinois on March 5-7, 2024. NPIF reserves the right to publish any or all parts of the essays submitted.

Please contact Lucy Russell, NPPC Manager of Producer Engagement, with any questions about the scholarship at 515-864-7983 or russell@nppc.org.

Background:

For more than 30 years, Neil Dierks devoted himself to the well-being of U.S. pork producers. As CEO of the National Pork Producers Council, he encouraged, challenged, supported and equipped members as they advocated for opportunities in trade as well as reasonable regulation. In times of trial and triumph, Neil provided insight born from experience as well as study. His servant's heart and the tenacity necessary to ensure success combine to benefit producers of all sizes and philosophies. Above all, Neil nurtured leadership for the pork industry, seeking out and elevating talented persons with a variety of skills to serve as resources and decision-makers for today and tomorrow.

Neil's 2021 retirement created an opportunity to honor his contribution to the U.S. pork industry and legacy as a leader, through the Neil Dierks Scholarship.

