

INFLUENCE

THE *Future* OF AG

WESTERN GROWERS CENTER FOR INNOVATION &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Western Growers Center for Innovation & Technology® (or, “The Center”) is an initiative launched by Western Growers in December 2015 to identify and accelerate new technologies and startups that will be beneficial to the specialty crop industry.

## THE PROGRAM

Western Growers Foundation secured \$30,000 from Wells Fargo Bank to establish a scholarship fund for agtech start-up companies. Startups awarded scholarships will be invited to attend and participate in all of the activities of The Center. The scholarships will be for one year, and each startup must demonstrate progress during the year of residency. Scholarships will be for a maximum of \$3,000 and will underwrite the cost of a “hot desk” (non-reserved workstation) or defray the costs of a desk within The Center. Scholarships may be renewed annually if Western Growers Foundation has funds. Western Growers Foundation will award up to 10 scholarships.

## THE PROCESS

### Eligibility

Scholarships are open to any individual or company working on ideas, or technology, that will assist the fresh fruit, nut and vegetable industry to produce more food using fewer inputs and with less waste.

### Requirements

All startups that desire to apply for financial support from Western Growers Foundation must submit the following:

- 1) Name and contact information of the requesting party
- 2) Biographies for the management team
- 3) A business plan
- 4) Description of:
  - A) why the company desires to be in The Center.
  - B) the technology being developed/offered.
  - C) the potential benefit(s) to the fresh produce industry
- 5) Proposed performance metrics to evaluate progress
- 6) A letter of support from one or more WG member company

All applications must be submitted in Word or PDF format to Hank Giclas at [hgiclas@wga.com](mailto:hgiclas@wga.com) and received by Friday, December 30th, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. PST

### Approval

Western Growers Senior Vice President of Strategic Planning, Science, and Technology will review applications and make recommendations to the Western Growers Foundation. Companies will be selected by the Western Growers Foundation Board or its designees. All companies may be contacted for further information. Scholarships will be awarded until the \$30,000.00 fund is wholly allocated. Residency may begin upon award of a scholarship.

### Awards

Scholarships will be paid in quarterly installments to The Center on behalf of scholarship recipients, contingent on each recipient submitting progress reports each quarter to the Senior VP of Science and Technology at Western Growers.