



STUDENT Engagement Program

INVEST IN FUTURE LEADERS

Our Mission:

Our mission is to identify deserving college students from the Western States and Provinces and provide them access to WAFWA's Annual Summer Conference where they gain leadership skills through structured sessions and engage with fish and wildlife professionals inspiring them with the next steps of their careers.

Financial Support:

WAFWA launched its first Student Engagement Program in 2024 with six graduate and undergraduate participants, followed by seven students in 2025. Both years were highly successful, fostering meaningful connections and opening doors for students and agency partners alike. Our goal is to expand this opportunity to a larger cohort each year, but doing so requires additional financial support. The current cost for a federal or NGO partner to sponsor a student is \$2,500, which covers travel, lodging, and program delivery. In addition to interacting with students during the student mixer and WAFWA summer meeting sessions, sponsors will have the opportunity to host a student meal during the summer meeting.

Testimonials:



SIERRA WILLIAMS

“

From the moment I got off the flight the hospitality, the staff, the other students, & the different professionals were all so welcoming. This conference has truly helped me get ready to advance the next step in my career. Getting to meet and have one on one conversations with high level professionals from all the Western agencies was the best part.

”



LILY OLMO

“

This experience was unparalleled to other conferences and workshops I have attended. It gave me the opportunity to connect with high-level industry professionals that I would not have otherwise met in the academic world. Observing the nitty gritty of organizational decision-making in action is something that many people never get to see, let alone while you are still a student. Having this experience early on in my career helped me see where I can see myself in this field and how I can get there.

”

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE PROGRAM?

Contact Zach Lowe zach.lowe@wafwa.org

WAFWA WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF
FISH & WILDLIFE AGENCIES