

CONTACT Kristina Lankow
PHONE 605-692-7539
EMAIL klankow@swiftelcenter.com

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PRESS RELEASE

Two students awarded scholarships from regional Dairy Fest



Students Audrey Souza (right) and Karla Rodriguez-Hernandez (middle) receiving the Dairy Fest Scholarships from Tracey Erickson, Dairy Fest Committee, at the 2017 SDSU Dairy Science Scholarship Banquet.

Brookings, S.D.
(05/04/2017) – The Swiftel Center Dairy Fest committee awarded two \$500 scholarships to South Dakota State University students at the 2017 SDSU Dairy Science Scholarship Banquet. Audrey Souza and Karla Rodriguez-Hernandez were selected as scholarship recipients.

Scholarship funds came from 2016 Dairy Fest sponsorships. Dairy Fest is an annual event put on by dairy producers, processors and industry

leaders to bring the community together to celebrate the dairy industry. The festival was created with the mission to provide a free, family-friendly festival to help educate consumers about the dairy industry and the future of dairy youth education.

Audrey Souza is a Dairy Production, and Ag Education, Communications and Leadership and Pre-Vet Major anticipating graduation May 2017. Audrey is from Milbank, SD and is very active in promotion of the dairy industry and the SDSU Dairy Club for which she was elected vice president for 2017. Audrey was co-chair for the organization of the Midwest American Dairy Science Association student affiliate division conference that the SDSU Dairy Club

hosted in 2017. She is a leader in numerous activities such as 4-H, FFA, State-A-Thon, Junior Holstein Association, SDSU dairy cattle judging and many others.

Karla Rodriguez-Hernandez is working towards her Ph.D. in Dairy Production under the guidance of Dr. Jill Anderson; she is anticipating graduation May 2018. In addition to her work towards her Ph.D., Karla is active in promoting the dairy industry through assistance to the Dairy Fest Committee. In 2017, she was awarded the SDSU April Brooks Distinguished Woman-Student Category award for her work. She also received research poster presentation awards of Gamma Sigma Delta and Sigma Xi research societies.

The SDSU Dairy Science Department Scholarship Banquet was held on April 10 with 290 people in attendance including students and their families, alumni, producers, processors, supporting industry personnel, faculty and their families, university administration, South Dakota Department of Agriculture personnel, and friends. Of the 30 incoming students for fall 2017, ten students and their families were also present. More than 110 scholarships and awards were presented totaling \$153,000 to undergraduate and graduate Dairy Science students. In addition to recognition of students and donors of scholarships, special recognition was given to Mr. Marvin Richards and Neal and Rachel Kucker who have provided major contributions to the Dairy and Food Science program. Details can be found at www.sdstate.edu/ds/students/index.cfm

2017 DAIRY FEST

The 2017 Dairy Fest will take place June 3 at the Swiftel Center, Brookings, SD from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and is free to the public. Events include live demonstrations as well as tours of the SDSU Davis Dairy Plant and Golden Dakota Dairy farm. The Dairy Fest Carnival will feature cows and calves; a milk dunk tank; a corn and soybean box with farm toys; inflatable bounce houses; a straw bale maze; cheese sticks snacks; and many more activities. Attendees can enjoy free samples of SDSU ice cream, cheese snacks, and warm coffee with creamer. Free bus transportation will be provided starting at the Swiftel Center and running round-trip to the SDSU Davis Dairy Plant and Golden Dakota Dairy farm. A free grilled cheese lunch will be available at the Golden Dakota Dairy farm; parking is available on site. The fun begins at 10:00a.m. and is all completely free! To learn more, like Dairy Fest at www.facebook.com/sddairyfest, visit www.swiftelcenter.com or call (605) 692-7539.

About the Swiftel Center

The Swiftel Center is a gathering place for cultural, recreational and educational events. With a 30,000 square foot arena, state-of-the-art banquet rooms, conference rooms and in-house catering, the Swiftel Center is an international award-winning venue of excellence and one of South Dakota's premiere event centers.

About VenuWorks

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