



ALLIANCE™

[.https://www.globalseafood.org](https://www.globalseafood.org)

Intelligence

# Winners of inaugural aquaculture scholarships for North American Indigenous students announced

4 November 2022

By Responsible Seafood Advocate

## Aquaculture scholarship recipients to receive \$5,000 to pursue degrees in aquaculture, marine biology and fisheries and wildlife science

The **Kurt Grinnell Aquaculture Scholarship Foundation** (<https://kurtgrinnellscholarship.org/>) (KGASF) has awarded its first-ever aquaculture scholarships to three students, two representing U.S. Tribes and one representing a First Nation in Canada. Each scholar will receive (U.S) \$5,000 to pursue degrees in aquaculture, marine biology or fisheries and wildlife science.

The aquaculture scholarships were established to honor the legacy of the late Kurt Grinnell, a Native American leader from the **Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe** (<https://jamestowntribe.org/>) in the state of Washington, who saw aquaculture as a solution to Tribal food security. The KGASF provides financial assistance to North American Indigenous students who wish to pursue careers in aquaculture and natural resources, said Jaiden Grinnell Bosick, one of Grinnell's two daughters.

"As a family and as a Board, we are immensely proud of these three scholarship winners," said Bosick.



Kurt Grinnell Aquaculture Scholarship Foundation award recipients: Alana Schofield of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in Michigan (left); Michael Buck (*Ka-Kin-As*) of the Yakama Nation in Washington State (middle); and Taylor Nichols of the Wahnapiatae First Nation (WFN) in Ontario, Canada (right).

“We all believe these students have a bright and shining future ahead, and we look forward to their contributions to the field of aquaculture,” said Bosick, who serves on the KGASF Board, where she heads up the Scholarship Selection Committee. “My dad would have been honored and proud to know them.”

The scholarship award announcement coincides with the celebration in the United States of National Native American Heritage Month, which is celebrated every June in Canada as National Indigenous History Month, said Levana Mastrangelo, Vice-Chair of the KGASF board and Selection Committee member. Mastrangelo, the Senior Reconciliation Advisor at Cermaq Canada, Ltd., belongs to the Ucluelet First Nation – Yuułu?ił?ath Government.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

**NEVER TASTED SO GOOD**



AquaBounty

DISCOVER WHY

(<https://aquabounty.com/>).

“We believe that the scholarships made possible by the KGASF not only help these students financially but for every scholarship winner, there is a strong connection to their Tribal or First Nation heritage,” she said. “In Canada, aquaculture plays a vital role in First Nation communities and is a path to self-determination and Reconciliation,” she said, adding that “aquaculture provides many jobs and economic opportunities, as well as creating healthy seafood products.”



## Better together: Partnerships drive innovation at leading labs

Laboratories with industry partnerships are making aquaculture more innovative, efficient and responsible. These collaborations offer access to expertise, facilities and funding to further the industry and improve global food security.



Global Seafood Alliance

0

The inaugural scholarship winners are Michael Buck of the Yakama Nation in Washington State (whose Yakama Nation name is *Ka-Kin-As*); Alana Schofield of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in Michigan; and Taylor Nichols of the Wahnapiatae First Nation (WFN) in Ontario, Canada.

Buck, who is enrolled at the University of Washington’s School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, has “a keen interest in historic fisheries in the Columbia River Basin including lamprey populations which were historically important to several Tribes in the Columbia River Basin.” He plans to use his scholarship to pursue his master’s degree.

Schofield is enrolled at Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, where she will pursue a degree in fisheries and wildlife biology. She has experience in Tribal fisheries and is interested in learning about aquaculture and aquaponics, with the goal of “returning to her Tribal Community and using her knowledge to advance tribal sovereignty and improve and protect the natural environment.”

Nichols has experience in aquaculture via a pickerel micro-hatchery with the WFN and is currently pursuing a master of science degree in biology from Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. She is a graduate of Canada's Dalhousie University.

Read more about the **Kurt Grinnell Aquaculture Scholarship Foundation** (<https://kurtgrinnellscholarship.org/>).

Follow the *Advocate* on Twitter **@GSA\_Advocate** ([https://twitter.com/GSA\\_Advocate](https://twitter.com/GSA_Advocate)).

## Author

---



**RESPONSIBLE SEAFOOD ADVOCATE**

[editor@globalseafood.org](mailto:editor@globalseafood.org) (<mailto:editor@globalseafood.org>).

Copyright © 2022 Global Seafood Alliance

All rights reserved.