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**MAEF ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF THE 2021 MAEF ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP**

**(HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND)** – May 11, 2021- Kara Hutchinson of Cordova, Rebeca Fuquen of Arnold, and Lynne Thomas of Fallston, Md., have been awarded the 2022 Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation Academic Scholarship. The MAEF Academic Scholarship was open to rising junior or senior undergraduate or graduate students enrolled in majors leading to careers in agricultural education or Extension education.

Hutchinson is a full-time student at Delaware Valley University where she is enrolled in a Bachelor of Science program in Agribusiness. Hutchinson was an active member of the Maryland FFA in her high school, served Maryland 4-H as a state council member, was crowned Miss Talbot County Farm Bureau in 2017 and 2018 and currently serves as the Treasurer for DelVal Collegiate Farm Bureau.

Hutchinson is interested in a career in Extension education. She says, “When applying for college, I decided the major suited for me was Agribusiness with a specialization in crops. A business-based degree focusing on the agricultural industry will allow me to learn how to manage a farm or agricultural business properly. The crop specialization will let me know how to serve farmers in the region where I want to work, the Delmarva Peninsula.”

Fuquen is a full-time student at the University of Maryland College Park pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science and Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art.

“My fascination with the beauty of intricate biological processes fuels my drive to relentlessly pursue a career involving animals. My goal is to one day pursue my own research and engage my love for drawing by creating scientific illustrations in my own time. I am passionate about educating the public in animal welfare, handling, and biology, and would love the opportunity to teach professionally in the future,” said Fuquen.

Thomas is a full-time student at West Virginia University where she is enrolled in a Bachelor of Science program in Agricultural and Extension Education with minors in Horticulture, Agribusiness Management, and Food Science and Technology. Thomas served in multiple chairmen and officer roles at North Harford High School’s FFA program. Additionally, Thomas was active in the Baltimore County 4-H program serving in multiple state level roles as a youth. Thomas currently serves as the Treasurer and Fundraising chair of the Agricultural Professionals Society at WVU.

Thomas states, “I am an Agricultural and Extension Education major because of my passion for telling agriculture’s story. I know that this is the right path for me because of my life-long love for teaching and for the agriculture.”

Dedicated to increasing agricultural literacy and agricultural education, MAEF is a nonprofit organization with programs serving pre-kindergarten through post-secondary audiences. MAEF signature programs include “Infusing Ag in the Classroom” professional development courses for teachers; mobile science labs; mobile agricultural showcases and Maryland FFA. Funded by the Maryland “ag tag” license plate revenues, gifts, grants and program fees, MAEF promotes the importance of agriculture in everyone’s daily lives. For more information visit [www.maefonline.com](http://www.maefonline.com). ###