

## ***2018-2019 Bexar County Master Gardener Scholarship Recipients Named***

For the past ten years, our Bexar County Master Gardener organization has awarded at least two \$2000 scholarships annually to horticulture majors attending a Texas college or university. Again this year, on behalf of the Bexar County Master Gardeners, your scholarship committee selected two scholarship recipients for the upcoming academic year. We were delighted to receive applications from eleven students at several Texas schools including Texas Tech and Texas A&M. This is the largest and one of the best applicant pools that we have had, making our decisions difficult.

An important component of our educational mission, the support and encouragement of worthy students who plan to become a part of the horticulture landscape in Texas is one of our most rewarding projects. This year's recipients have the talent and commitment to become a vital part of Texas horticulture. Congratulations to **David Figueroa** from Texas Tech and **Kaylee Ites**, a student in the horticulture program at Texas A&M.



**David Figueroa**, a native of Houston, and a rising senior at Texas Tech, majors in plant and soil sciences with a minor in landscape architecture studies. His GPA is 3.84. He has been on the Texas Tech President's list and has received scholarships and recognition from a number of organizations. He is an officer in the horticulture society at Tech, a member of the judging team for the Southern Region of American Society Horticulture Science Contest, a C.U.T.E. Club (an environmental organization) member, and has volunteered at Ronald McDonald house and the Boys and Girls Club. David has worked at Greenscape Design Studios at Texas Tech as a horticulture consultant and as a plant nursery assistant at Another Place In Time. He has volunteered with the Lubbock Arboretum helping identify and update their tree inventory maps. David has a great interest in tropical trees and their production and hopes to go on to graduate studies to pursue this subject further. His letters of recommendation refer to him as an excellent student with a true passion for horticulture—who is deserving of our support.

**Kaylee Ites** majors in Horticulture at Texas A&M University with an emphasis on landscape design. She is a rising senior with a 3.86 GPA. Kaylee received the BCMG scholarship last year after completing a successful Horticulture Internship at Walt Disney World where some of her jobs included maintaining the irrigation systems in the greenhouse, maintaining the greenhouse show of over 150 hydroponic food crops, propagating, transplanting, pruning and harvesting plants, and leading daily informative and interactive guest tours through the facility. This spring she received the Texas A&M University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences senior Merit Award. She is Greenhouse Manager of the Horticulture Club at Texas A&M, and has participated in both the southern regional and national competitions with the A&M Team at the American Society for Horticultural Science. She also is responsible for coordinating industry guest speakers for the Horticulture Club. Kaylee is a member of the Student Association for Sustainable Agriculture. Previously, she has participated in the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association Exposition installing student landscapes and creating container displays. This summer Kaylee has accepted an internship at Bailey Nurseries—a nationwide family operated wholesale production facility where she will work with container production, shipping, propagation and irrigation. She is excited that both the irrigation and research at the facilities are being expanded and she will be able to participate in these areas. Kaylee has an interest in irrigation and upon graduation she plans to apply for an irrigation certification. Kaylee's goal is to inform and encourage others to partake in the beauty of the natural world and sustain the growing world population with needed agricultural resources. Her department chair praises her commitment to the green industry and places her at the top of her peer group. With her studies and internships, she is well prepared for a good position in the green industry

