



RYAN
Crop Manager
Ag Education



**NAVAJO
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From a Graduate of the **SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

What was the deciding factor that made you apply for NAPI's Scholars Program?

I was young and wanted to establish myself into a career I was passionate about, and knew that NAPI was able to provide that experience i needed to further my career into an agronomic business profession.

What was the most beneficial aspect of your participation in the Scholars Program?

I was able to follow veteran farmers who were leaders within each of their own crop and observe their everyday challenges, also had a hands-on experience out in the fields of cropping land.

What was the best memory you've had in being a Scholars Intern?

That I was working with Navajo people for Navajo people and using our Navajo water rights while farming our Navajo lands. It made me more responsible and understood why we need to be privileged for what we have as Native American farmers.

How did being a Scholars Intern help you in your studies?

It made me more aware of the concepts needed within a real world career and be able to relate that information into a classroom setting. I understood some things more clearly and was able to learn quicker in some situations because of my internship at NAPI.

How did being a Scholars Intern help you in your career?

I was taught not by a staff member but by the farmer themselves and was more confident when I entered my first years as an assistant crop manager at NAPI. I was given the chance to learn more hands-on and understand certain concepts more clearly.

Would you recommend this program to family or friends attending NMSU?

Most definitely. This is one of the few programs within the Navajo Nation who work with some of the largest producers and vendors within the entire North America region. NAPI is the showcase of the southwest and everyone should feel privilege to work with them. I know I am, when I come to work every single day.