

Riceville Recorder

Dohlman earns Horatio Alger award

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Tyler Dohlman, a 2004 graduate of Riceville Community School.

Tyler Dohlman, a 2004 graduate of Riceville Community High School, has been awarded the "Washington Family Horatio Alger Scholarship of Excellence Grant," a \$40,000 award which will help in the funding of his post-graduate education. The grant is the newest scholarship program

Dohlman, the son of Beth and the late Lynn Dohlman, became eligible for this scholarship because as a high-school senior, he earned a Horatio Alger National Scholarship. The award is given to high-school seniors who have persevered in overcoming adversity while demonstrating excellence in academics, character and contributions to their community.

To Dohlman, winning the award had come as a surprise. "I honestly did not think I would receive the award when I applied," he said. "There was a big hurdle in the way of my application, and that was I did not have an undergraduate degree. I did go ahead and apply for it, even without a degree, thinking that the worst thing they could say was 'Sorry, you are not qualified.'"

Much to Dohlman's surprise, that proved to be less of an obstacle than he thought. After sending in his application, he received an e-mail telling him that he was a finalist and that he was invited to Washington, D.C., for an interview.

"The interview was the best I have participated in," Dohlman said. "It was not a sit-down, question-answer type deal. They basically had a conversation with me to find out my character and my motivation. A few weeks later, they told me I would be a recipient of the award, and I was enthusiastic for weeks afterwards."

Dohlman attended two years of undergraduate college at Iowa State University, studying animal science, before applying early for the ISU College of Veterinary Medicine. He was accepted for the Class of 2010 and has been there for two years. "I have enjoyed that I chose veterinary medicine as a career," he said.

At ISU, Dohlman is also involved in American Association Bovine Practitioners, American Association Swine Veterinarians, American Association Equine Practitioners, Veterinary Student Mixed Animal Recruitment Team and he has helped to develop a Swine Diagnostic Team through the Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine Department. The money he earned from the Washington Family Horatio Alger Scholarship of Excellence Grant will help to pay for his last two years of veterinary education.

"I would like to practice Food Animal Medicine in the Midwest, where I can raise a family and keep my heart in agriculture," he explained.

Dohlman initially received the Horatio Alger Association National Scholar Award based on financial need, overcoming adversities, community service and character. At the age of seven, he lost his foot in an auger accident, and when Dohlman was 12, his father, Lynn, passed away in a grain-bin accident.

"Both accidents were devastating to me and my family," Dohlman said, "but with the help of the Riceville Community and my family and friends, I was able to take those experiences and mold myself into a well-rounded citizen with normal aspirations and dreams."

Dohlman is still involved in 4-H Farm Safety Days, and he will be a speaker for the College of Veterinary Medicine Foundation.

The Washington Family Horatio Alger Scholarship of Excellence Grant was made possible by a \$10 million donation from Chairman Emeritus and Life Association member Dennis R. Washington and his wife, Phyllis. Dennis was impacted by polio as a child and overcame that to make himself a vice president of the largest construction company in Montana by age 26. He also created his own construction company. He and his wife founded the Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation. Through their foundation, they have donated \$70 million to various charitable causes.

Dohlman was one of 10 individuals from around the country to be part of the first class of scholarship recipients. The others are Andrew Angely of Fort Collins, Colo.; Shana Joy Bartlett of Coconut Creek, Fla.; Christin C. Carothers of Humarock, Mass.; Bevin A. Croft of Mount Vernon, Wash.; Zenaida Gallardo of Arvin, Calif.; Kanathy N. Haney of Coconut Creek, Fla.; Ashley D. McKain of Foley, Ala.; Amy N. Robertson Losier of Copeland, Kan.; and Kristine Kaye Whiple of Bountiful, Utah.