

GCSANC News Release

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Contact: Marc Connerly

916-214-6495

mconnerly@connerlyandassociates.com

GCSANC Launches Intern Housing Assistance Program

In an effort to attract golf course maintenance personnel by offsetting a portion of California's high housing expense, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California (GCSANC) has launched their Intern Housing Assistance Program.

Interns employed in the turf maintenance department at member golf courses in Northern California are eligible, and in the first year more than \$14,000 was awarded to seven deserving individuals.

"On behalf of the GCSANC Board of Directors and immediate past leadership, I can say that we're all very proud and excited about being able to roll out this housing assistance initiative," said GCSANC President Josh Lewis. "The extreme cost of living in Northern California has been a major roadblock to the development of our industry locally for a very long time, so it's been amazing to watch the leadership, effort and collaboration of our entire Board behind the scenes over the last year culminate in providing this benefit to our membership."

The program grew out of discussions by the GCSANC Board of Directors about the dearth of individuals entering the turf maintenance workforce and the challenges of recruiting employees to California due to the high cost of living.

"The intern assistance program is a testament to the Preferred Partners of GCSANC, who have loyally and generously supported the organization, especially during the past two challenging years; the superintendent members of GCSANC, who are the backbone of the association; and the Board of Directors, who have very capably managed the organization's finances and reserves, and are not afraid of outside the box thinking and devising new and creative ideas for problem-solving," said GCSANC Executive Director Marc Connerly.

Ultimately, the Board decided to create a program to assist interns with their housing expenses, offering up to \$1,000 per month of rental assistance for four months per intern (maximum \$4,000 per intern). The Board originally budgeted \$8,000 total for the first year, but after reviewing the applications and gauging the popularity and potential impact of the program, decided to increase the amount so that all applicants were fully funded.

The program, which will welcome new applicants in 2023, is in addition to the money that GCSANC donates annually to turf research (\$20,000 in 2022) and annual scholarship funding, which is typically in the neighborhood of \$10,000, depending on the volume of scholarship applications received.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of Northern California is dedicated to serving its members through promotion and advancement of our profession. For more information, please visit www.gcsanc.com.