



ALUMNI FAMILY ESTABLISHES FELLOWSHIP FUND

“I BELIEVE THAT AS GRADUATES, WE SHOULD ALL MAKE IT OUR MISSION, AT A MINIMUM, TO PAY BACK WHAT WAS INVESTED IN EACH OF US,” SAID STEPHEN. “IF WE DID THIS, THE GOAL OF KEEPING AG LEADERSHIP SUSTAINABLE INTO THE FUTURE WOULD BE MET.”

Father-son alums, Stephen and Garret Patricio have made it a family goal to establish the Patricio Family Fellowship Fund to support future Ag Leadership fellows. Stephen, a graduate of Class 19, is president and CEO of Westside Produce, an independent handler of cantaloupe and honeydew melons in the San Joaquin Valley. Garret, a graduate of class 38, works with his father at Westside and serves as vice president of operations and general counsel.

“We talked, my sons and I, and decided to make it our mission to pay back what was invested in us,” said Stephen. “Ag Leadership presents an opportunity unlike any other—I’m a big believer in the difference it makes in people.”

Stephen says it’s not only the importance of the program, but also the generosity of others that moved him to establish the fund.

“The other piece of this is people like Loren Booth and the Boswell family who have given in outstanding ways,” said Stephen. “So we decided to start working in our own family towards a goal and it culminated in a decision to make a commitment to Ag Leadership.”

The Patricio family has always been involved in community and charitable events close to home. Now Stephen and Garret have decided to establish the fund to contribute in a way that serves the Ag Leadership community as a whole. According to the Patricios, it’s always been a matter of when they would establish the fund, not if.

“We have been contributing individually to different areas of Ag Leadership,” said Garret. “Hosting local exchange groups or annual contributions to different programs, but this is just something we’ve had planned for awhile—we made the promise, and now we’re following through with it.”

Both Patricios feel the impact Ag Leadership has had on their business and have been genuinely impacted by the program.

“The program was of tremendous value to both of us,” said Garret. I went through it at a time when it really served me well both as an individual and in this business. I’m a family man too, and I can translate some of the lessons to my family as much as I can in my day-to-day work.”

“WE’VE BOTH MADE CONNECTIONS ACROSS MANY DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES—NOT JUST THE INDUSTRY WE OPERATE IN,” SAID GARRET. “WE’RE ALL INTERCONNECTED THROUGH A WEB OF GREAT INDIVIDUALS AND IT REALLY HAS BEEN MORE ABOUT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND KNOWING WHEN TO UTILIZE THOSE SKILLS”