



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Next-gen scientists
- Next-gen philanthropists
- Expressing gratitude

NEWSLETTER OF THE DANFORTH CENTER

# WHD Legacy Society

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2: FALL 2024

## INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS

*2024 REU Students Hone in  
on STEM Careers*

Plant science is crucial for developing solutions to climate change, advancing clean energy, restoring ecosystems, and improving agriculture. Surveys consistently show that Gen Z students are deeply concerned about issues relating to the environment, so is it any surprise that the Danforth Center hosts the largest Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) in the nation?

The REU is a program of the National Science Foundation. Each summer, exceptional undergraduate students from around the country compete for 10-week programs of authentic research, mentoring, and real-world experience. In 2024, nineteen interns came

to the Danforth Center, and many are leaving motivated to pursue careers in science. Here are just a few quotes:



*Felix Guo, Washington  
University in St. Louis*

"Having this internship at the Danforth Center solidified my goals of pursuing a PhD in plant biology. I plan on having my own research lab, where I can develop pest-resistant crops, reducing the issue of food insecurity."



*Morgan Murff, Purdue University*

"I will apply to graduate school this year for a PhD in plant biology. I want to teach undergraduates and focus my research on African medicinal plants."

*Continued on page 2*



## INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENTISTS *cont.*



Daniela Ceballos, University of the Pacific

"I am currently planning on pursuing a graduate-level degree in plant science and hope to work with plant phenotyping in the future."

When you support the Danforth Center, you are helping to inspire the next generation of scientific leaders. Planned giving can help create a legacy of impact. Call Parker Butler at 314.587.1071 for more information.

## CULTIVATING SOLUTIONS

### Dennis and Matt Plummer's Passion for Plant Science

Dennis Plummer, an agtech investor and co-founder of CoverCress Inc., first became aware of the Danforth Center through the Ag Innovation Showcase. Having spent 29 years at Monsanto, Dennis was inspired by what he heard: "Here's the Danforth Center solving really big problems that private industry wasn't," recalls Dennis. Dennis serves on the Danforth Leadership Council Executive Committee. Together with his wife Carolyn, he is a long-term Danforth Society member. "I'm all-in on the Danforth Center's mission," he says. "It's better for the environment, better for the food system, better for the human condition."

Meanwhile, his son Matt Plummer, COO of Saluna, Inc., currently serves as chair for the Danforth Center Young Friends



Steering Committee. Matt has been instrumental in leading the Grow Challenge Party with the Plants fundraising effort to its biggest year ever in 2024. Like his father, Matt's enthusiasm for the Danforth Center is rooted in a deep belief in its mission: **"The mission of the Danforth Center touches every single person on this planet," says Matt. "Whether it's plants that grow with fewer inputs or crops that resist disease, it's all about improving food security and nutrition for everyone."**



"Climate change is the biggest challenge facing our generation. The SINC Center can create real solutions."

Rebecca Bart, PhD  
Interim VP of Research,  
Co-Director of the SINC Center



## ▲ GRATITUDE LUNCHEON

On Sept. 12, the Danforth Center celebrated the first annual Gratitude Luncheon in honor of our strongest supporters. President & CEO Jim Carrington interviewed Dr. Becky Bart about the Subterranean Influences on Nitrogen and Carbon Center. Danforth Center Board Director Ruth Kim was presented with the Newell S. "Jim" Knight Jr. Volunteer Award.

Want to help?  
Updating your will to include a gift to the Danforth Center may offer tax advantages. Call Parker Butler at 314.587.1071.





# DONALD DANFORTH PLANT SCIENCE CENTER

975 North Warson Road  
Saint Louis, MO 63132

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

ST. LOUIS, MO  
PERMIT NO. 5385

Address Service Requested

✕ f i y @danforthcenter | [danforthcenter.org](https://danforthcenter.org)

LEGACY ADVISORY COUNCIL Ken Bower, *Clayton Financial*; Steve Daiker, *Harrison LLP*;  
Matt Perlow, *Husch Blackwell*; Bud Strong, *Husch Blackwell*

## THE REWARDS OF YEAR-END GIVING

As the end of the year approaches, you may be looking toward your financial planner for ways to reduce taxes. If you are 70½ or older, you can make a gift to the Danforth Center from your IRA tax-free. Learn more about qualified charitable deductions at [legacy.danforthcenter.org](https://legacy.danforthcenter.org).



### DON'T MISS...

*Seeds of Change  
on Oct. 29  
featuring Penny  
Pennington. See  
[website to register.](https://legacy.danforthcenter.org)*