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Thornton Landscape president awards scholarship

Maineville, Ohio – Rick Doesburg, president of Thornton Landscape, recently announced the recipient of the ninth Thornton Landscape/Doesburg Family Scholarship. Jody Linnabary, a graduate from Columbus State Community College, received the honor. He recently earned an associate's degree in landscape design/build (LAND) from the college.

The national scholarship, established as part of the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) Educational Foundation, is awarded to students with high character and leadership skills. It was established to help future leaders of the landscape industry receive their education in landscape contracting, landscape horticulture or landscape architecture, and to work in the design/build portion of the industry. The \$2,000 scholarship, which is given every-other-year, is not based on financial need, but on educational excellence.

Doesburg created the scholarship to encourage youth to go into the design/build side of the landscaping industry. He said the scholarship allows him to give back to the industry he has been a part of for 40 years.

“Everyone who knows Mr. Linnabary speaks very highly of him, and after meeting him myself, I agree. He is an exceptional young man, and I am pleased he has already joined the green industry,” Doesburg said. “The green industry is a vital part of our environment and our economy, and I appreciate that it needs professional and knowledgeable people for its continued success. With people like Jody, it has a bright future.”



Linnabary, 25, of Columbus, took to landscaping at a very young age. When he was ten years old he began mowing the grass at The Ark House, a group home whose employees serve the developmentally disabled. After several years, the organization could no longer pay the boy to cut the lawn, instead inviting him inside to work as an employee for the group.

Linnabary is remains active with The Ark House to this day by organizing and overseeing volunteer efforts with students from Columbus-area colleges and universities who come and take care of the more than two acres of grounds, which were once part of the Underground Railroad.

“Without a landscape budget or regular maintenance, it’s difficult to keep such an important place looking pristine,” Linnabary said. “The people and the home mean so much to me and have been a huge part of developing my sense of community beautification.”

Linnabary has a strong sense of community and even in his young age has committed to giving back, through beautification and volunteering efforts. In addition to Linnabary’s commitments to The Ark House, he still finds time to serve as president of the Columbus State Landscape Association all while managing his own company, JL Landscapes. He is also an advocate of organic materials and sustainable landscaping practices.

“My favorite part of landscaping is coming back to a place and knowing that I made a difference,” Linnabary said. “Turning a nondescript area into a colorful, vibrant space, full of life, making impacts like that, especially in my community, that’s what landscaping is to me.”

The Thornton Landscape/Doesburg Family scholarship was created from a \$25,000 donation given by Rick and his wife, Peggy. With the donation entitled, the Doesburgs became Ambassadors in the PLANET Educational Foundation, which has a combined \$2.5 million in donations from landscape professionals around the country.



About Thornton Landscape

Thornton Landscape, founded in 1961, is located in Maineville, Ohio, and provides comprehensive landscape services from design through installation to the residential, maintenance and commercial markets. Thornton Landscape employs 45 professionals who have extensive experience and certification in the landscaping industry. For more information, visit www.thorntonlandscape.com.

About PLANET

PLANET is the association of members who create and maintain the QUALITY OF LIFE in communities across America. With more than 4,000 member companies and affiliates, these firms and their employees represent more than 100,000 green industry professionals. For more information, visit LandcareNetwork.org, or call the PLANET office at (800) 395-2522.

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