To The Oregon GCSA Scholarship Committee,

My name is Scott Holt, a third generation greenskeeper from the Monterey peninsula with eight years of experience in golf maintenance. My father was an assistant superintendent for forty years; he provided me with a great life growing up on a golf course, and I'm fortunate enough to still be out on a course everyday at twenty-eight years old. This profession has been a constant presence in my life and I don't see that ever changing. I've held virtually every position on a greens crew, from section greenskeeper, to intern, to spray and irrigation tech. My current employment is as the first-assistant at Laurelwood Golf course in Eugene.

There are many reasons for why I've decided to enroll in the PACE program. I'm at a point in my career where I can see the value of continuing education, not only to advance one's career, but to become a better course or facility manager. What I hope to gain from OSU's PACE program is the insight to ask informed questions that will enable me to solve problems as my career progresses. Not only do I think this will make me a more effective assistant, but I see it also as a step toward becoming a well-rounded superintendent. Continuing to learn and grow as the industry evolves is vital to staying relevant in this field. The PACE program will enable me to do just that.

This program will benefit me personally and professionally in many ways, two of which are obvious: higher earning potential and career advancement. Specifically, a formal education is something I’ve put off for far too long, which is likewise the biggest hole in my resume, but I have a genuine curiosity about soil science, carbon sequestration, water management, and how superintendents find a balance between environmental stewardship and high-quality playing conditions. My hope is that upon completing these PACE courses, I’ll be able to make more informed decisions when it comes to implementing cultural practices to achieve that balance between playability, overall turf health, and the environment. Continuing education opportunities like the PACE program will assist me in better understanding the factors that go into achieving that balance.

Finally, if I am selected for this scholarship, trust that it will be utilized to full effect. I recognize that continuing education in turf will not only open up future opportunities for myself, but also enable me to continue my personal and professional growth in this industry.

Sincerely,

Scott Lee Holt

Laurelwood G.C.

541-674-8857