

To the members of the Oregon Chapter of the GCSAA board,

My name is Amador Martinez and I am writing to you in regards to the 2024 OSU Turfgrass Management PACE Course Series Scholarship. I began in the golf course turf industry in February of 2023 at Langdon Farms Golf Club, and instantly found a passion in this field that I was missing in previous career paths. My love for the game of golf is what originally sparked my interest in turf care management. Due to my work ethic, determination, and the help of great mentors, in May 2024 I earned a position at Willamette Valley Country Club (WVCC) as their First Assistant Superintendent. My long term goal is to become a Superintendent at a tournament caliber course, but I know I still have much to learn before I am ready for that responsibility. I believe that the PACE Course will give me access to a knowledge base that I can not learn from on the job training and take my career in turf care management to the next level to help me reach my goals in the future.

The subjects I am most looking forward to learning about in the PACE program are diseases and putting green construction. Disease prevention and treatment I believe is one of the most important aspects of turf care. As a golfer and an assistant superintendent I have seen how diseases can ruin the playability of a golf course. It is our job to maintain a golf course to be able to have the best conditions for people to enjoy. Having a clear education of how to indicate a disease, what causes a disease, and how to prevent the spread of a disease on each type of turf grass would be essential to my current role at WVCC and my future position as a superintendent.

Additionally, I am excited to learn about the construction of putting greens because having a solid putting surface is essential to golf. This part of the PACE course would also help me learn the many types of grasses used to construct putting greens as well as in other areas of the golf course. I am most familiar with Perennial Ryegrass, Bentgrass, and Tall Fescue from working in the Pacific Northwest, but I have interest in learning about grasses that thrive in different climates apart from Oregon as well. I am also hoping to gain a more “text book” background on the different practices that are needed to maintain healthy greens such as aerification, overseeding, and top dressing.

In summary, I feel I would be an excellent candidate for the 2024 OSU Turfgrass Management PACE Course Series Scholarship. This course would help me improve in serving WVCC as their First Assistant Superintendent and help me advance my career in the future.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amador Martinez