

**Levi De Jong | Grade 12**  
**Evangel Christian Academy | Colorado Springs,**  
**Colorado**

**The Jiffy Lube “What Drives You?” Scholarship Program**

“Green?! You want to become a mechanic to work on *green* tractors?” my grandpa asked half joking, half serious. Farmers like my grandpa are loyal to their favorite equipment brand, sometimes for generations. My grandpa likes Case International red, not John Deere green. Whatever the color, farmers need their tractors to run right and depend on mechanics to keep them operating.

My name is Levi De Jong, and I live in Falcon, Colorado. I want to go into the trades and become a John Deere-certified mechanic after high school.

My family background in agriculture is very extensive. On my father’s side of the family, my great-grandfather immigrated on his own from the Netherlands at age 17 and started with his faith and a good work ethic. He started farming in northwest Iowa with a variety of crops and animals and went on to own a successful farm. On my mother’s side of the family, my great-great-grandparents came from the Netherlands to Kansas and Iowa. One of those farms has been in the family for almost 60 years. My love for agriculture started from a very young age visiting this farm in south central Iowa. I have learned a lot from going there such as long days, hard work, and how to work with heavy farm equipment.

I will graduate high school this spring, having played in band and sports since junior high. My basketball team has qualified for the Colorado high school boys’ regional tournament every year, and this year I am senior team captain. My current GPA is 3.7, and I will have 21 college credits by high school graduation. My time has also been spent volunteering through a program called the Isaiah Project at my school and church by serving the elderly and needy. I believe it is important to serve our community. My hobbies include my 2002 Ford Ranger stick shift pickup, dirt biking, fishing, and enjoying Colorado’s great outdoors.

I’m about to begin my fifth summer of running a self-employed lawn mowing business that includes everything from very small yards to 5-acre properties. I have learned a lot from my mowing business including how to manage money and equipment, and how to communicate with my customers. I truly enjoy the work I get to do because of the people I have met and the chance to work outside.

Next fall, I will attend Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa, having already been accepted into the Ag Service Tech (A.S.T.) program. That program is a partnership with AgriVision, a John Deere-certified dealer. The A.S.T. program will make me a certified John Deere technician with an associate’s degree after two years.

Thank you to Jiffy Lube for offering this scholarship to young people like me driven to work as an agricultural equipment mechanic.