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ISPA and WithIt Announce Joint Sustainability Scholarship to Support Emerging Industry Leaders

Alexandria, Va. - The International Sleep Products Association (ISPA), in partnership with WithIt, has announced a new ISPA Sustainability Scholarship designed to support the next generation of leaders advancing sustainability and innovation within the mattress and bedding industry.

The scholarship reflects ISPA's ongoing mission to promote sustainability through smarter product design, waste reduction, and improved recycling and deconstruction methods. By partnering with WithIt - a leading organization dedicated to developing talented women in the home and furnishings industry - this initiative expands opportunities for students passionate about environmental responsibility and individuals eager to apply circular economy principles to real-world challenges. The scholarship is open to all eligible male and female students.

"The future of our industry depends on cultivating bright, motivated professionals who are ready to rethink how products are designed, made, and recovered at end of life," said Alison Keane, President of ISPA and the Mattress Recycling Council. "This scholarship encourages students to bring forward solutions that support a more sustainable, resource-efficient future for the entire sleep products value chain."

The program seeks applicants interested in contributing to product development, sustainable manufacturing, and supply chain innovation. Ideal candidates will demonstrate how their academic work and professional goals can help increase recyclability, extend product lifespan, and minimize environmental impacts across the sleep products industry.

Scholarship Details and Eligibility

- Completion of four semesters in a major related to renewable resources, environmental science, circular design, or sustainability at an accredited college or university
- Minimum 3.0 GPA

Application Requirements

- A 300-word statement outlining the applicant's vision for more sustainable product development
- Latest official transcript
- A list of extracurricular or volunteer activities
- Two academic or professional references

- Application Deadline: **March 2, 2026**

Recipients will be selected by the WithIt Scholarship Board, along with members of the ISPA Board of Trustees and ISPA Sustainability Committee, representing leaders from mattress manufacturers and component suppliers across the industry.

Award Package

- Scholarship recipients will receive:
- A \$1,750 scholarship
- Complimentary registration to attend the 2026 ISPA Sustainability Conference in Charlotte, N.C., with a travel stipend to support attendance
- An invitation to attend the WithIt Annual Conference (travel expenses on your own)
- Recognition through a published interview in ISPA's BedTimes magazine and ISPA online platforms

Beyond financial support, the ISPA Sustainability Scholarship offers recipients the chance to connect directly with industry professionals working in sustainability, circularity, and product stewardship, and engage in discussions about real-world challenges presented at industry events.

The application and full program details are available at: <https://withit.org/scholarship/>

For more information about ISPA, visit www.sleepproducts.org. To learn more about MRC, visit www.mattressrecyclingcouncil.org. For details about WithIt, visit www.withit.org.

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Established in 1915, the International Sleep Products Association (ISPA) is dedicated to leading and advancing the interests of the sleep products industry. As the industry's trade organization, ISPA represents the sleep products industry and members in countries around the world and serves as the Voice of the Mattress Industry™.

ISPA provides a wide range of services that benefit its members. These include exclusive industry surveys and statistics, government advocacy, educational and networking events including its ISPA EXPO and sustainability conference, safety and consumer research through its Sleep Products Safety Council and Better Sleep Council, and industry information through BedTimes and Sleep Savvy magazines.

To learn more, visit www.sleepproducts.org or contact info@sleepproducts.org.