

The National Association of Landscape Professionals has named the National Collegiate Landscape Competition (NCLC) student reception the Rea Student Reception in honor of Christopher (Chris) Rea, who passed away March 15, 2018, at the age of 28. Chris was an alumnus of Kansas State University and participated in NCLC for three years, from 2012 to 2014. In his final year of competition, Chris won first place in two different events: Compact Excavator Operation and Woody Ornamental Plant Identification. He was named Outstanding Senior in Horticulture from Kansas State University and selected to the National Honor Society- Pi Alpha Xi. After graduation, Chris, a certified arborist and certified horticulturist, enjoyed returning to NCLC each year with his Mariani Landscape teammates, as well as sharing his passion for the industry with future landscape professionals. Chris was married to Mallory, loved landscaping, animals, and his two "girls" (dogs). He was fun loving, kind and an instant friend to anyone he met.



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Photo: Mariani Landscape