MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 1, 2023

TO: National Association of Agricultural Educators Membership

FROM: Alissa F. Smith, NAAE Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Announcement of 2023 NAAE National Award and Scholarship Recipients

On behalf of the NAAE Board of Directors, it is with pleasure that I announce the names of the NAAE Award and Scholarship Recipients for 2023. As usual, the competition for these awards was intense.

The following are the **2023 National Award and Scholarship Recipients** who will be recognized November 28 – December 2 at the 2023 NAAE Convention.

**Outstanding Early Career Teacher Award**
- Region I: Jaimee Brentano, OR
- Region II: Randy Bean, OK
- Region III: Alysha Kientopf, SD
- Region IV: Rylyn Small, MO
- Region V: Hunter Morton, SC
- Region VI: Rayne Ives, NY
**Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher Award**

Region I  Stephanie Schofield, OR  
Region II  Kadie Smith, OK  
Region III  Mary Handrich, WI  
Region IV  Donald Barnhart, OH  
Region V  Matthew Barnhill, NC  
Region VI  Melessa Suder, VA

**Outstanding Middle/Secondary Agricultural Education Program Award**

Region I  El Capitan High School, CA  
Region II  Tonganoxie High School, KS  
Region III  Southeast Region Career & Technical Center, ND  
Region IV  Streator Township High School, IL  
Region V  Bell High School, FL  
Region VI  Royalton-Hartland High School, NY

**Outstanding Postsecondary Agriculture Program Award**

Region I  Laramie County Community College, WY  
Region II  Oklahoma State University, OK  
Region III  University of Minnesota Crookston, MN  
Region IV  Illinois State University, IL  
Region V  Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, GA  
Region VI  The Pennsylvania State University, PA

**Ideas Unlimited Award**

Region I  Kelsey Williams, ID  
Region II  Nicole Hinrichsen, KS  
Region III  Joe Ramstad and Janelle Hueners, MN  
Region IV  Taylor Wilkinson, IL  
Region V  Allie Crockett, GA  
Region VI  Lisa Boltz, PA
Teacher Mentor Award
Region I  JD Cant, OR
Region II  Jacob Larison, KS
Region III  Dr. T.J. Brown, MN
Region IV  Annette Applegate, IN
Region V  Ann Johnson, TN
Region VI  Sara Seiser, MD

Outstanding Service Award
Region I  Thomas Clifton, ID
Region II  ML Lockwood, OK
Region III  Terry Rieckman, SD
Region IV  Dean Dittmar, IL
Region V  Jerry Johnson, TN
Region VI  Thomas Hojnowski, PA

Lifetime Achievement Award
Region I  Kip Hansen, UT
Region II  Greg Cash, CO
Region III  Roger King, WI
Region IV  Jeff Maierhofer, IL
Region V  Dr. Frank Flanders, GA
Region VI  Joseph Linthicum, MD

Teachers Turn the Key Professional Development Scholarships
Region I  Alexandra Pettit, AZ
                Jessica Watarai-Ordillo, HI
                McKenna Ford, ID
                Trevor Motley, MT
                Hannah Giles, UT
                Rylee Maddox, WA
                Megan Barton, WY
Teachers Turn the Key Professional Development Scholarships (continued)

Region II
Kisia Weeks, AR
Zach Callaghan, KS
Cody Dean, OK

Region III
Jamie Pudenz, IA
Harley Braun, MN
Cora Huss, ND
Donavan Phoenix, NE
Morgan Ackerman, SD
Joelle Liddane, WI

Region IV
Jerry Brockett, IL
McCord Snider, IN
Cassidy McAllister, KY
Samantha Wagner, MI
Lily Grant, MO

Region V
Lexi Sanchez, FL
Lissi Chism, GA
Millie McKinney, MS
Jared Parks, NC
Brooke Hall, SC
Brandon Rogers, TN

Region VI
Rebecca Ferguson, CT
Kasey Revel, DE
Kelly Bryant, MD
Renee Stillwell, NJ
Alison Parrott, NY
Victoria Brown, PA
Bethany Grooms, VA
Emily Dunkle, WV
NAAE Upper Division Scholarships

Recipients of the NAAE Upper Division Scholarships will be recognized at the Alpha Tau Alpha National Conclave held in connection with the National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana in October. Attendance is not required to receive the scholarship.

Region I
Turner Lear, Oregon State University
Faith Richins, Utah State University
Alissa Whitaker, University of Idaho

Region II
Alyssa Sherron, Kansas State University
Mikayla Wrenn, Texas A&M University

Region III
Karli Knopf, University of Minnesota Twin Cities
Jared Mickelson, University of Wisconsin–River Falls

Region IV
Jaiden Flora, Northwest Missouri State University
Madison Goodlett, University of Kentucky
Patricia Habenstreit, Michigan State University
Lauren Mellott, The Ohio State University
Madyson Planck, University of Kentucky
Paige Teeters, Wilmington College
Branson Van Fleet, The Ohio State University

Region V
Anna Epperson, University of Tennessee–Knoxville
Kayleigh Fowler, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Abigail Rose, North Carolina State University
Savannah Scott, Middle Tennessee State University

Region VI
Brandon Bixler, The Pennsylvania State University
Paige Rohrbach, The Pennsylvania State University
All special award regional winners and recipients of Teachers Turn the Key will be recognized at the 2023 NAAE Convention, November 28 – December 2 in Phoenix, Arizona. Award winners will receive specific information regarding convention by email in the coming weeks. Outstanding Early Career Teacher, Outstanding Ag Ed Teacher, Outstanding Middle/Secondary Ag Ed Program, Outstanding Postsecondary Agriculture Program award winners and Teachers Turn the Key recipients should not take any action regarding travel, hotel, or registration arrangements until they receive further instructions from NAAE. If you have already pre-registered for convention, you will be reimbursed by NAAE. Please contact Katie Wood (kwood.naae@uky.edu) to take care of your reimbursement as soon as possible.

cc: NAAE Board of Directors
    State Ag Teachers’ Association Presidents
    State Executive Directors and Secretaries

**NOTE**

Outstanding Early Career Teacher, Outstanding Ag Ed Teacher, Outstanding Middle/Secondary Ag Ed Program, Outstanding Postsecondary Agriculture Program award winners and Teachers Turn the Key recipients should not take any action regarding travel arrangements, hotel reservations, or convention registration until they receive further instructions from NAAE!! Please look for those instructions by email within the next couple weeks. These will be emailed to your email address provided on the application. Please contact our office if you have any changes to your contact information.