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MEMORANDUM

DATE: Wednesday, July 30, 2025

TO: National Association of Agricultural Educators Membership

FROM: Alissa F. Smith, NAAE Chief Executive Officer *AFS*

SUBJECT: Announcement of 2025 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 2025. As usual, the competition for these awards was substantial. The following are the **2025 National Award and Scholarship Recipients** who will be recognized December 8-12 at the 2025 NAAE Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

Outstanding Early Career Teacher Award

Region I Bret Kindall, ID
Region II Kisia Holland, AR
Region III Blair Gerlach, IA
Region IV Jacqueline Wetzell, IL
Region V Emily Courson, GA
Region VI Lily-Anne Lachnor, NY

Outstanding Agriculture Teacher Award

Region I Daniel Bolen, OR
Region II Chris Bacchus, AR
Region III Alysha Kientopf, SD
Region IV Jacob Falwell, KY
Region V Ashley Pedersen Holloman, NC
Region VI Michael Clark, PA

Outstanding Middle/Secondary Agricultural Education Program Award

- Region I Tillamook High School, OR
- Region II Pratt-Skyline High School, KS
- Region III Park Rapids High School, MN
- Region IV South Putnam High School, IN
- Region V Sun Valley High School, NC
- Region VI Millbrook High School, VA

Outstanding Postsecondary Agriculture Program Award

- Region I Reedley College Agriculture Department, CA
- Region III Ridgewater College Ag Equipment Mechanics Technician Program, MN
- Region IV Northwest State Community College, OH
- Region V Piedmont Technical College School of Agriculture, SC
- Region VI Ithaca College Masters of Arts in Teaching Program, NY

Ideas Unlimited Award

- Region I Cassidy Dutton, ID
- Region II Nicki Walden, OK
- Region III Kayla Brune, MN
- Region IV Fallon Jackson, KY
- Region V Ben Woody, SC
- Region VI Tina James, NY

Teacher Mentor Award

- Region I Justin Heupel, MT
- Region II Dr. Kelly Hoelting, KS
- Region III Pamela Koenen, MN
- Region IV Mark Steber, IL
- Region V Amy Paterson, FL
- Region VI Rebecca Isaacson, CT

Lifetime Achievement Award

Region I Milford Wearley, MT
Region II John Jones, AR
Region III Barbara Lemmer, IA
Region IV Dave Wyrick, MI
Region V Rod Barnes, TN
Region VI Terry Hughes, NY

Outstanding Service Award

Region I Marc Beitia, ID
Region II Brian Harris, AR
Region III Mary Hoffmann, MN
Region IV Dr. Donn Russell, MO
Region V Farrah Johnson, FL
Region VI Dr. Daniel Foster, PA

Visionary Impact Award

Region I Airgas, OR
Region II Jennifer Cook, AR
Region III Val Aarsvold, MN
Region IV Environmental Management, Inc., OH
Region V Amy McAllister, FL
Region VI Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, PA

NAAE Student Teacher Scholarships

Recipients of the NAAE Student Teacher 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.

Karlie Albright, Kansas State University
Eryn Allison, Oklahoma State University
Brianna Brazil, California State University, Fresno
Emily Broshious, University of Mount Olive
Lyndsey Garrett, Kansas State University
Jamie Johnson, Oregon State University
Lucas Lyons, Purdue University
Grace Mortenson, West Texas A&M University
Xanaa Myers, North Carolina A&T State University
Brianna Payne, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Sophie Shearer, University of Kentucky
Rylee Smith, Oklahoma State University
Kennedy Spriggs, University of Kentucky
Brittney Stengel, University of Arkansas
Jacob Stiltner, Ohio State University
Erica Teagarden, Penn State
Kylee Triche, Louisiana Tech University
Cierra Wagoner, North Carolina State University
Haylie Williams, Oklahoma State University
Gabrielle Zachery, University of Georgia

Please note that NAAE XLR8 and Teachers Turn the Key program participants will be notified separately.

All special award regional winners will be recognized at the 2025 NAAE Convention, December 8-12 in Nashville, Tennessee. Award winners will receive specific information regarding convention by email in the coming weeks. **Outstanding Early Career Teacher, Outstanding Agriculture Teacher, Outstanding Middle/Secondary Agricultural Education Program, and Outstanding Postsecondary Agriculture Program award winners 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