**SD FFA Hosts Legislators**

South Dakota Legislators met with District and State FFA Officers at the 2020 South Dakota FFA Legislative Breakfast Thursday, Jan. 16 in Fort Pierre, S.D. The purpose of the event was to promote the FFA’s mission of premiere leadership, personal growth and career success by bringing together South Dakota’s governmental leaders with leaders of the South Dakota FFA. The State FFA Officers conducted a breakfast program focusing on the three-part model of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources education which includes: classroom instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects and FFA. District FFA officers and advisors took advantage of the opportunity to visit one-on-one with legislators, sharing how local agriculture education programs and FFA provide hands-on, career relevant experience for students. Nearly 30 legislators, plus special guests Paul Beran, Board of Regents Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Kristie Fiegen, SD Public Utilities Commissioner, Jason Simmons, Policy Advisor, Chris Nelson, Vice-Chairman Public Utilities Commissioner, Kim Vanneman, Secretary of Agriculture, Larry Rhoden, Lieutenant Governor and Tiffany Sanderson, Senior Policy Advisor, attended.

In addition to the breakfast, the State FFA Officer team facilitated leadership training workshops for the 49 district officers on leadership, agricultural advocacy, Career and Technical Education and FFA. This gave our District FFA Officer teams from our seven districts a chance to get to know each other while attaining valuable leadership skills. “It was a very fun event that helped me develop my leadership and communication abilities. I also made some new friends and had a blast,” district officer Buster Reis from the Chamberlain FFA Chapter said. Kayla Jacobson from the Brandon Valley FFA Chapter added, “DOT has taught me how to apply my strengths and weaknesses to leadership and how to be a better leader.” The state officer team enjoyed every moment of getting to work with the students and speak with the legislators and special guests.

The South Dakota FFA Legislative Breakfast and District Officer Training is sponsored by Citibank N.A. Fund, SD Association of Cooperatives, SD Bankers Association, SD Farmers Union, SD Wheat Commission, SD Association of Agricultural Educators, SD Crop Improvement Association and our SD FFA Star Partners: Twin Cities Region Northland Ford Dealers, Agtegra, Bayer, Pioneer, CHS Foundation, ADM Grain Tulare, BankWest, AT&T/GA Group, PC, BASF, Butler Machinery Company, C&B Operations, U.S. Army/Army ROTC, Croplan by Winfield United, Dacotah Bank, East River Electric Cooperative, Farm Credit Services of America, Hanson & Associates, LLC, Midwest Ag & Veterinary Service, RDO Equipment Co., SD Corn Utilization Council, GrainBridge, Riverview, LLP, RDO Equipment Co., LG Seeds, Titan Machinery, Citi, The First National Bank in Sioux Falls.

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