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“ADVISOR TRIBUTE” SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS CHOSEN

STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO ATTEND FFA SUMMER LEADERSHIP RETREATS

BATH (June 7, 2016) - Agriculture education teachers/FFA advisors make a world of difference for the students they teach. This spring **students put into words**, as part of an FFA Advisor Tribute Scholarship application, **how their ag teachers/FFA advisors have impacted their lives**. Nine outstanding examples of amazing teachers impacting their students have been chosen and submitting students will each receive scholarships to attend a SD FFA Leadership Retreat this summer. **Lacey Wipf, Freeman; Sydney Hoffman, Bridgewater-Emery; Becca Bauman, Deuel; Taylor Runoff, Rapid City; Shayleene Rogers, Rapid City; Kyle Ericson, Rapid City; Tyler Zuschlag, Rapid City; Nate Rendon, Rapid City; and Moriah Flanagan, Garretson, earned scholarships.**

The students wrote essays about how their FFA advisors have made an impact on their lives. **Each of these student’s thinks their advisor is one of the best there is, and is happy to say so!**

- Taylor Runoff and Shayleene Rogers, both juniors in Rapid City, nominated Mrs. Lisa Steinken, and comment “She encourages us to challenge ourselves, and regardless of how well we do, she’s our biggest cheerleader. I can count on her to have my back and correct me when I’m wrong. She has shaped me and left an indelible mark on my life. ... She has inspired me to become an ag teacher! She helped start a chapter garden to provide member SAE opportunities and her work ethic and focus rub off on members.”
- Nate Rendon and Tyler Zuschlag, Rapid City FFA juniors express their thanks to advisor Mrs. Bobbie Jo Donovan, “She pushed me to do my best – in class as well as FFA. She even had to push hard for me to join. ... She has given up many hours to help me and others with public speaking and leadership skills. She is patient when I need help, sets high expectations and holds me accountable. ... With her persistence, I found my passion, have set big goals, placed in natural resources, became chapter president, and want to do more. Her encouragement will impact my entire life.”
- Kyle Erickson, Rapid City FFA senior shares, “I’ve always wanted to be a rancher, and Mrs. Genetie Hendrix gave me the opportunity to learn about livestock, teaching me about quality. She built a judging team that worked together, committed to practicing nights and weekends.”

- Becca Bauman, Deuel FFA senior shares, “Mrs. Marie Jacks is the only teacher I’ve ever known that treats you like her own. She tries to new things and lets our ideas combine with hers. Few teachers strive to see leadership in one individual and watch it spark among a group of students, like our chapter officers this year. She has made me a dependable, confident and honest leader not only in FFA but as a community member.”
- Sydney Hoffman, Bridgewater-Emery FFA member shares, “Being an FFA advisor is not easy, yet Mrs. Karen Roudabush, does an awesome and detailed job of it while juggling two little girls at home and being a farmer’s wife. This makes her an excellent role model. She demonstrates and has taught me to keep calm and manage my time better; being calm in a stressful situation relaxes the mind, allowing you to problem solve faster and easier.”
- Lacey Wipf, Freeman FFA member comments, “Mrs. Jessica Ronning is a first year FFA advisor who already hugely impacted me. Only five feet tall, she always stands up for herself and her students, not letting anyone push her or us around. She is passionate about teaching life lessons in addition to class. She not only wants members to do our best, but does anything she can to ensure we excel. I am glad to have met and gotten to know her.”
- Moriah Flanagan, Garreston FFA member says thanks, “Mr. Ed Mueller taught each of us that even though we may outgrow our jackets, we will never outgrow the experiences we had the opportunity to be part of through his leadership. He develops excellence in students by setting a good example. He shares his love for agriculture, gives us confidence to advocate for the industry, and teaches us leadership, teamwork and the importance of service. We are sad to see him retire after 22 years, but know he will continue to encourage kids to “live to serve”.

Scholarships are made possible through the SD FFA Foundation by West River Electric Association, Sioux Valley Energy, and the Walt Johnson Memorial Fund; in memory of two past FFA advisors: Leonard DeBoer and Walt Johnson. Both men led by example and their advice was truly ripened with wisdom. Mr. DeBoer spent his life teaching young people about agriculture and the leadership skills that would make them successful in their career choice. He was the FFA advisor in Chamberlain for almost 40 years where he lived FFA's mission by making a difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for *premier leadership*, *personal growth* and *career success* through agricultural education. Mr. Johnson served as the SD FFA Foundation President, as well as on the SD FFA Foundation board, in Newell as an ag teacher, community supporter and coach for FFA career development events. He was devoted to agriculture education and earned his Honorary American FFA Degree in 2007.

For more information about the South Dakota FFA Foundation and South Dakota's FFA programs, visit www.sdffaoundation.org.