

BLUE AND GOLD

Pennsylvania FFA Happenings

Telling our Story
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Meet the 2015-2016 Pa. State FFA Officer Team

Coming together for the 2015-2016 year is a new officer team for the Pennsylvania FFA. With diverse backgrounds and a common goal of seeing their organization and members succeed, the team has plenty of work ahead of them and many memories to make.

Introducing the newest leaders of the organization:

• **Ily Gutrie**, president, daughter of Rich and Trudi Gutrie. Gutrie is a member of the West Perry chapter, located in Perry County. Her advisers are Ayla Miller and John Hines.

Gutrie's favorite career development event is parliamentary procedure because she is given the chance to work together as a team to accomplish a common goal. Her supervised agricultural experience is swine production. She has developed a passion for the show industry from her projects.

Gutrie plans to attend Connors State College in south eastern Oklahoma to obtain a degree in animal science and agricultural communications. She is currently a member of the livestock judging team at Connors State.

• **Tyler Watkins**, vice president, son of Randy and Angie Watkins. Watkins is a member of the Southern Huntingdon County chapter, located in Huntingdon County. His adviser is Rebecca Sellers.

His favorite career development event is extemporaneous public speaking because he has the opportunity to create and deliver a speech from mostly his own knowledge. His supervised agricultural experience is beef finishing. He raises and shows his beef cattle at his local fair.

Watkins plans to continue his education at Juniata College and graduate with a bachelor's degree in political science.



• **Rachel Greig**, secretary, daughter of George and Christine Greig. Greig is a member of the Conestoga Area chapter, located in Crawford County. Her adviser is Ellen Auras.

Greig's favorite career development event is prepared public speaking because she can choose any topic she wants to learn about and create a speech that displays her knowledge and opinions. Her supervised agricultural experience is sheep production. Greig raises and shows market lambs at her local fair.

Greig plans to attend Penn State Behrend to major in speech and language pathology.

• **Elizabeth Winklosky**, treasurer, daughter of Paul and Gretchen Winklosky. Winklosky is a member of the Derry chapter, located in Westmoreland County. Her adviser is Roy Campbell.

Winklosky's favorite career development event is floral design and job interview. Her supervised agricultural experience is swine finishing. She has been raising and showing hogs on her family farm since she was 8 years old and showing at her county fair since she was 10.

Winklosky plans to continue her education at Penn State University to major in agriscience management.

• **Katie Sharrer**, reporter, daughter of Paul and Bambi Sharrer. Sharrer is a member of the Bartlettsfield chapter, located in Adams County. Her advisers are William Tindall and Shawn Abma.

Sharrer's favorite career development event is agronomy because it provides her with skills and knowledge she can use for the rest of her life. Her supervised agricultural experience is agricultural tasks and skills.



Sharrer plans to enlist in the U.S. Army National Guard following state office, and attend Penn State University to major in agricultural education.

• **Luke Kerstetter**, sentinel, son of Kevin and Carla Kerstetter. Kerstetter is a member of the Midd-West chapter, located in Snyder County. His advisers are David Bitner and Greg Erb. His favorite career development event is parliamentary procedure because he gets to learn how to run an official meeting and it gets really competitive. His supervised agricultural experience is agricultural sales. Kerstetter keeps records of his job at his local grocery store.

Kerstetter plans to attend Penn State University to major in agricultural education.

• **Johnathan Noss**, chaplain, son of Donna Hower and Jeffery Noss. Noss is a member of the West Perry chapter, located in Perry County. His advisers are Ayla Miller and John Hines. His favorite career development event is parliamentary procedure. His supervised agricultural experience is agriscience and employment. Noss keeps records on his job at his local grocery store.

Noss plans to continue his education at Messiah College with the hopes of obtaining a medical career in the future.

These seven individuals will be serving the 12,727 members of the Pennsylvania FFA for the next year.



Presidential Scholars Program Expands to Include Career and Technical Education

INDIANAPOLIS — Career and technical education students will now be able to be designated as U.S. Presidential Scholars as part of an executive order by President Barack Obama.

Established by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964, the Presidential Scholars Program has honored almost 7,000 of America's top-performing students. The program was expanded in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter to recognize students who demonstrate exceptional talent in the visual, literary and performing arts. Each year, the program recognizes two high school seniors from each state and 15 scholars at-large on the basis of excellence in scholarship. An additional 20 scholars are selected for exceptional talent in the arts.

The Commission on Presidential Scholars and administered by staff at the U.S. Department of Education oversees the Presidential Scholars program. This commission, appointed by Obama, selects honored scholars annually based on their academic success, artistic excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service, leadership, and demonstrated commitment to high ideals.

"We are extremely honored by this deci-

sion," National FFA adviser Dr. Steve Brown said. "This action elevates the value and importance of career and technical education where agricultural education plays a key role."

Next year, the White House will welcome the inaugural class of 20 CTE Presidential Scholars, who will be selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars based on outstanding scholarship and demonstrated ability in career and technical education.

On Tuesday, June 30, First Lady Michelle Obama recognized outstanding students, teachers and administrators who have shown exceptional leadership in driving innovation in the field of career and technical education. Representing FFA were CTE Innovators Catherine Cincotta, a former student from North Burlington High School, N.J.; Whitney Brown, a student at Virginia Tech; and FFA adviser and CTE Innovator Ty Pope of Buxeye Central High School in New Washington, Ohio. In addition, FFA was represented by Tony Rice, former Pennsylvania state FFA officer, and Lauren Fillebrown, former state officer from New Jersey. Nan Hamilton, who is Cincotta's FFA adviser, also participated and provided exhibits for the event.

Rice Named Pa. FFA National Office Candidate

At the 86th Annual Pennsylvanian FFA Summer Convention, Tony Rice, the 2014-2015 state vice president, was elected as the Pennsylvania FFA national office candidate.

Over the next five months, Rice will go through training and preparation in an effort to be elected a 2015-2016 national officer, along with more than 40 other candidates. There are six open positions available.

Upon the announcement of his nomination, Rice said he "was in disbelief and shock; the feeling was really indescribable."

To prepare for the election, Rice is studying, practicing mock interviews with his adviser, and training in Texas and Raleigh, N.C. He also stays up-to-date with current issues regarding agriculture, education and FFA.

As to why he applied for the position, he explains it was always one of his main goals. "Over the past year as a Pennsylvania state officer, I learned that it meant to give yourself up and would love to do it for another year if given the chance," he said. "State office taught me what it means to serve and get to know people that had a huge impact on me."

He hopes to serve and encourage others to realize their self-worth and who they are, as well as instill a passion for FFA and agriculture. "The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 610,240 student members as part of 7,665 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The National FFA Organization operates under a federal charter granted by the 81st United States Congress and it is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership, support and helps set direction of FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs."

