April 17, 2012

2012 NAAE Awards Committee

NAAE Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program

Dear Awards Selection Committee,

The purpose of this letter is to provide a recommendation for Mr. Paul Heasley and the State College Agricultural Science program for the 2012 NAAE Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Award. I have benefited, as a student, high school agriculture teacher, and now university faculty member from the work that Mr. Heasley has done with the Penn State University. Thank you for this opportunity to share my insight on the program.

As a college student, I was able to benefit from the instruction that Mr. Heasley provided in agricultural mechanics. The partnership that Mr. Heasley formed with the professors in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education allowed me to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to successfully instruct high school students in the mechanics laboratory. Mr. Heasley opened up his high school facility to help the department provide this much needed instruction, as the facilities were no longer available on the Penn State campus.

This partnership that started approximately 15 years ago has grown to a point where Mr. Heasley has reached out to other program areas at the university to provide his students, and university students alike, the opportunity to learn as much as possible on a given topic. A few of the collaborations that Mr. Heasley has fostered recently include projects related to agriculture safety, biodiesel, and wildlife nutrition. While these topics are quite varied, it shows Mr. Heasley’s commitment to working with individuals at the university to strengthen both the program and the larger community. As a faculty member, I have benefitted from this partnership, because I see the value in providing instruction to our college students that will make them successful in their own agricultural laboratories in the future.

Mr. Heasley’s dedication to the agricultural education profession, and his local community, makes his program an outstanding candidate for the NAAE Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Agricultural Education Program. His program and commitment to the larger agricultural science community at Penn State provides a great example of how building connections with others beyond our “comfort zone” can be a huge asset to the future of agricultural education. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,



John C. Ewing

Assistant Professor, Agricultural and Extension Education

The Pennsylvania State University