

# Iowa FFA Alumni

## Newsletter

### FFA Alumni Mission

*FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education.*

### Regional Development Conference in Ankeny!

Save the date! Check out Page 4 for more information!



## 2016 FFA ALUMNI REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

**ANKENY, IOWA - AUG. 5-6, 2016**

Schedules and registration for each regional event will be posted online at:

**[FFA.org/gotordc](http://FFA.org/gotordc)**

#FFArdc



June 1, 2016



### **Iowa FFA Alumni Calendar**

#### June 19

National FFA Alumni  
Development Conference  
Registration Deadline

#### July 1

All award applications due for  
National FFA Alumni

#### July 14–16

National FFA Alumni  
Development Conference  
Kansas City, MO

#### August 5–6

Regional FFA Alumni  
Development Conference  
Ankeny, IA

#### August 11–21

Iowa State Fair  
Des Moines, IA

#### October 19–22

National FFA Alumni Conven-  
tion  
Indianapolis, IN

\*Various award deadlines for  
state conference are listed on  
the Association and Alumni  
website.

\*\*If your chapter has an event  
they want posted to the State  
FFA Alumni's Calendar send  
an email with event details to:  
[director@iowaffaalumni.com](mailto:director@iowaffaalumni.com)

### **2016 Iowa FFA Alumni Board of Directors**

#### Voting Members

President.....	Bryon Weesner .....	<a href="mailto:president@iowaffaalumni.com">president@iowaffaalumni.com</a>
President-Elect .....	Ashley Fitzgerald.....	<a href="mailto:afitz1206@gmail.com">afitz1206@gmail.com</a>
North Central Representative .....	Amy Classen .....	<a href="mailto:ncdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com">ncdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com</a>
Northeast Representative.....	Debra Zelle .....	<a href="mailto:nedistrict@iowaffaalumni.com">nedistrict@iowaffaalumni.com</a>
Northwest Representative.....	Melanie Bloom .....	<a href="mailto:nwdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com">nwdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com</a>
South Central Representative .....	Colton Beals.....	<a href="mailto:scdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com">scdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com</a>
Southeast Representative .....	Bob Goodall.....	<a href="mailto:sedistrict@iowaffaalumni.com">sedistrict@iowaffaalumni.com</a>
Southwest Representative .....	Steve Dolch .....	<a href="mailto:swdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com">swdistrict@iowaffaalumni.com</a>
At Large Representative .....	Andy Edson .....	<a href="mailto:andrewedson73@gmail.com">andrewedson73@gmail.com</a>
At Large Representative .....	Patrick Diedrich.....	<a href="mailto:diedrichpatrick@gmail.com">diedrichpatrick@gmail.com</a>
At Large Representative .....	Ann Bassett .....	<a href="mailto:acbassett316@gmail.com">acbassett316@gmail.com</a>
At Large Representative .....	Keisha Thompson .....	<a href="mailto:ktompson7x@gmail.com">ktompson7x@gmail.com</a>
Iowa FFA President .....	Michael Tupper .....	<a href="mailto:mtupper@iowaffa.com">mtupper@iowaffa.com</a>
IAAE President .....	Jeff Mayes .....	<a href="mailto:majesj@ahst.k12.ia.us">majesj@ahst.k12.ia.us</a>
Past Iowa FFA Alumni President .....	Zach Classen .....	<a href="mailto:classencattle@gmail.com">classencattle@gmail.com</a>

#### Ex-Officio

Iowa FFA Alumni Foundation Representative .....	Ron Zelle .....	<a href="mailto:rzelle@nashua-plainfield.k12.ia.us">rzelle@nashua-plainfield.k12.ia.us</a>
National FFA Alumni Council .....	Dan Classen .....	<a href="mailto:midwayfarms@ncn.net">midwayfarms@ncn.net</a>
Iowa FFA Alumni Advisor .....	Scott Johnson .....	<a href="mailto:scott.johnson@iowaffa.com">scott.johnson@iowaffa.com</a>
Iowa FFA Alumni Executive Director .....		<a href="mailto:director@iowaffaalumni.com">director@iowaffaalumni.com</a>



## **Featured FFA Alumni Lifetime Member**

### **Carly Cummings**



We'd like to recognize Carly Cummings as this quarter's 'Featured FFA Alumni Lifetime Member!' Carly is a member of the Pleasantville FFA Alumni Chapter and a former member of the Pleasantville FFA. Carly was the President of her local FFA Chapter in high school and participated in many Career Development Events. We checked in with Carly to see what motivated her to be a Lifetime FFA Alumni member.

Carly states, "My passion for agriculture, coupled with my love for educating others about our industry's global impact, are the gifts that have been given to me through being raised on my family's farm in south central Iowa, my involvement in the FFA organization, and my degrees in agricultural business."

Currently, as the Program Coordinator for Iowa State University's Agricultural Entrepreneurship Initiative (AgEI), she has the unique opportunity to assist students in global business development. Whether it be to return to their family's farm, or revolutionize our industry through a new technology, her mission is to create opportunities for the interest of the students.

Recently, she has also began collaboration with FarmHer, allowing her to effectively change the face of agriculture through sharing women's storing in agriculture. All of her experiences in the industry would not have been possible without her involvement in the FFA organization. "Leadership, collaboration, and adaptability were all skills instilled in my while wearing my blue jacket, but continue to open doors for me as a professional in the industry. My FFA Alumni Lifetime Membership means more than having an opportunity to continue involvement in an organization that helped shape my future; it means investing in our future leaders who will be responsible for carrying our industry forward."



If you're willing to share your experience in FFA and what motivated you to be a Lifetime FFA Alumni member, or know of someone to nominate, please contact Keisha Thompson, [kthompson7x@gmail.com](mailto:kthompson7x@gmail.com), to be featured in an upcoming newsletter!

### **Recent High School Graduates—New FFA Alumni Members**

Congratulations to all the recent high school graduates across Iowa in the FFA! It is truly a remarkable accomplishment through which you have demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication, not only in FFA, but in other areas as well. We are honored to have the chance to commend you for your hard work and achievements in school and the FFA organization.

There are approximately 80,000 FFA members graduating high schools annually across the country and about 60,000 active FFA Alumni. The organization saw an opportunity for growth.

As of April 1, 2106, all graduating FFA high school seniors will automatically become FFA Alumni members, free of charge! This is so exciting!

With the recent graduates this year, our membership will increase significantly!

The Iowa FFA Alumni Board of Directors and current members are proud to support the FFA Organization within the state of Iowa and agriculture's future leaders. We are dedicated to the future of agriculture and the agricultural education program. Be sure to keep in touch and follow us on Facebook!

On behalf of the Iowa FFA Alumni, congratulations and best wishes!

### **Social Media**

Have you connected with other FFA Alumni members on social media yet? Connect today by joining in the conversations on Facebook and Twitter! Use #FFAalumni to group your conversations with other who share same interests.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/iowaffaalumni/?fref=ts>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IAFFAAlumni>





# National FFA Alumni Association

## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Ankeny, Iowa - Aug. 5-6, 2016

Don't miss this great opportunity to receive hands-on training while networking and building relationships that will boost your impact!

FREE!!!

### Goals:

- Deliver professional, personal and alumni program development to our members closer to home so they can amplify their ability to engage our members, support our advisors and tell our story.
- Provide a regional opportunity for alumni members to network and share local visions of innovation with other alumni.

### Format:

- Free.
- A two-day event providing specific training for both local and state-level members.
  - Friday - state-level leader training focusing on state-level administration and activity building.
  - Saturday - local-level training targeting individual members, agriculture educators and other members of Team Ag Ed.
- Workshops are broken into beginner and advanced levels providing more authentic and useful information for all attendees.
- Workshops focus on growing alumni members and chapters.

FREE!!!

### Past Attendee Reviews:

- "Every member needs to attend this."
- "Amazing workshops and resources."
- "We wish we would have known how powerful and impactful this was going to be. We would have brought our entire alumni chapter!"

*Schedules and registration for each regional event will be posted online at:*

***[FFA.org/gotordc](http://FFA.org/gotordc)***







## Highlights from the Iowa FFA Leadership Conference

*By: Ashley Fitzgerald, President-Elect*



Amplify. That was the theme of the 88th Iowa FFA Leadership Conference, held at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa in April. But what does that really mean? Throughout the conference, we heard speakers and participated in events that taught us “Amplify” was all about boosting our impact.

As FFA Alumni we were busy throughout the conference Amplifying FFA and boosting our impact in many ways. One of our biggest projects each year at the state conference is our supply service. T-shirts, hats, belt buckles, keychains & more! You name it – we sell it, and in FFA style! FFA members lined up to purchase their FFA products. The supply service also helps boost the funds of the FFA alumni, helping us provide programming, resources, and scholarships to the local level.

Speaking of scholarships, we enjoyed handing those out to deserving individuals on stage at conference. We awarded members WLC scholarships as well as recognized chapters who were outstanding in the area of Public Relations with our SAE/Ag Ed Publicity Award. FFA alumni members also served as CDE judges, award sponsors, conference volunteers and more.

However, the biggest way we boosted our impact was probably through talking with people at our booth in the career show. This year we were excited to show off our new display which will better help us tell our alumni story & share our mission with individuals in-

terested in being a part of our organization. If you haven’t had a chance to see our new display, make sure you find time to check it out at Ag Teachers Conference, the Iowa State Fair, or the Farm Progress Show.

Post state conference, I was speaking with a gentleman who was in attendance to see his son receive his Iowa Degree. He said to me, “I haven’t been to a state FFA conference since the 70’s and, wow, they have changed a bit.” I smiled as I thought of how convention had changed since I was in high school, and then I thought of the theme, Amplify. Each year, no matter what means are used, whether it be laser shows and loud music or the simpler times of minimal audio visual stimulation, the goal of the state conference has remained the same; Amplify. In those few short days of conference it is our goal to boost our impact, and I think we can say we did it well in 2016.

Did you know you can check out videos from all the sessions on the Iowa FFA Association’s YouTube for free?

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/IowaFFA/videos>

