

SUMMER 2017

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California NEWS

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We want to hear from you...

We are always looking for great stories about members and alumni around our state. Know of a story that we should feature in CA FFA News? Please email news@californiaffa.org.

Submission deadlines: Fall..... June 1st Winter..... September 1st Spring November 15th Summer March 1st



Stay in touch... "California JJA"











UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY • 10-13 Regional Officer Leadership Conference (ROLC) - Tomales 13-17 State Fair Jr. Livestock Show - Sacramento 21&22 San Joaquin Region SOLC -

Visalia 22-26 State Fair Dairy Show - Sacramento

AUGUST • Greenhand Leadership Conferences (GLC) 7&8 Southern Region SOLC - Pomona

11-13 San Joaquin Region Boot Camp - Camp San

Luis 26 Central Region SOLC - Elk Grove

TBD • Superior and North Coast Region SOLCs

For a list of current FFA events please visit **www.CalAgEd.org**









SACRAMENTO LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE Sacramento, March 7-10, 2017



by Cole Ibbotson Elk Grove FFA Chapter

Sacramento Leadership Experience: A Transformative Four Days

Tuesday, March 7: I'm sitting around a table in the ornate Silver Room at the Capitol Plaza Hall in downtown Sacramento, surrounded by 59 passionate FFA members from around the state. Sacramento Leadership Experience has just begun, and I'm fidgeting in my seat in anticipation of events over the next four days.

Friday, March 10: We've just adjourned the conference after an emotional session. It's over; these transformative four days passed so quickly, and as we exchanged goodbyes and

returned to our hometowns, I began to reflect on my experiences.

In just four days, I learned about California's government, met my own representatives, researched and debated bills relating to food, agriculture, environment, and education, and challenged my own beliefs by assuming the perspective of my district's 57 constituents. In this environment an inner confidence I didn't realize I possessed manifested itself. Every time I volunteered information, asked questions, partook in caucus discussion, and debated passionately, I stepped further out of my comfort zone.

On Tuesday, I came to Sacramento with a desire to pursue a career in politics, yet also with an uncertainty about the political environment. Four days later, I left SLE with the realization that I have the potential to thrive in this atmosphere, and I plan to do just that.



by Beth Noel Fortuna FFA Chapter

As I walked through two large antique doors into a room full of crafted desks, red curtains, and vaulted ceilings, I was able to comprehend the venture I was beginning in our state's capitol. At Sacramento Leadership

Experience 59 senior FFA members and I were assigned a district, party, and mock bill. As Senator Noel representing District 24 and sponsoring Senate Bill Two, Section 04 (Sweetened Beverage Tax), I lobbied other assembly members and senators on behalf of my constituents, bill, and party. I enjoyed serving on the Senate Education Committee which allowed me to sit in the committee hearing room and amend bills before they reached the senate floor. In the committee hearings we were challenged to come up with debate on the spot after being rebutted. Outside of the actual capitol building we built connections with FFA members, FFA alumni, agriculture industry professionals, and government officials. As the capstone of the California FFA Conference Continuum it was the most memorable, personable, inspiring conference I have experienced. I cannot wait to apply the skills from SLE as I work towards becoming a high school agriculture teacher.







FEATURED CHAPTER

Healdsburg IJA

earning to Do

Healdsburg FFA is a growing chapter in the North Coast Region. Situated in northern Sonoma County, the school population is at an all-time low, with just under 600 students. While the school is small, the FFA program is growing! We have around 20% of our school population in our classes. Classes have expanded in the last four years with the hiring of a full time Agriculture teacher. We offer all A-G courses, and are teaching the new UCCI Agriculture Science courses in addition to our electives, like Farm to Table. Our Farm to Table class is

a favorite on campus. We regularly take our egg layers on field trips around campus visiting classes and offices. We spend half of our time in our growing garden and half the time in our large culinary kitchen. Our students learn about the production and business of a commodity, like eggs, and then learn how to utilize them in various foods, like quiche and custards.

Outside the classroom, our students have some amazing SAE projects. Healdsburg

is very fortunate to have a supportive community that holds the Healdsburg Future Farmers Fair each year on Memorial Day weekend. We have over 50% of our students raise an animal for the Healdsburg Fair. Our fair is unique because it is limited to our FFA chapter and Healdsburg 4-H clubs. It's also held on our football and baseball fields in the center of town. All food vendors are local non-profits and the Athletic Booster corndogs are pretty much famous! Students who don't raise animals,

{ Continued on page 5 }









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have projects that range from work experience at local vet hospitals, marketing for wineries, agriscience projects, and even agriculture processing at Healdsburg Toffee Company. In addition to SAE's, our FFA leadership has been completely transformed in the past four years. We now have nearly two dozen state degrees, a half dozen proficiencies, and tons of students attending leadership conferences each year. The success of our chapter has been because of the dedication and value of leadership on campus, in our community and at FFA activities.

Along with our SAE projects, students participate in many fundraising activities throughout the year. Our fair brings in high prices for our students, so they understand the

importance of giving back to the community. We hold Drive Thru BBQ's, Chili Fundraisers, and Dine & Donates at local pizza restaurants, all to help with purchasing supplies for our garden to be able to have our own plant sale each spring. Our newest venture is partnering with the Wreaths Across America program. The program provides wreaths during the month of December, to be laid on veterans' graves at the local cemetery. While the program is a non-profit, we are fundraising to be able to cover all the costs of the wreaths and their transportation from the east coast. Stay tuned for this great program.

iving to Serve

The chapter regularly organizes and participates in a high number of community

service projects, valuing service to others above ourselves. We have participated in a myriad of projects, but we are most proud of holding an annual Blood Drive, our Blanket Making Project, Relay for Life team, Healdsburg Ag Days, and now Wreaths Across America. We have even participated in the National Day of Service during National Convention. We work to make sure we are participating in community service that benefits not only our community but Sonoma County and have been fortunate to learn about food insecurity in other states through our service projects. Our community is extremely generous and supportive, so we always want to ensure we are giving back. •







gustine_ffa The MFE/ALA kids had a wonderful time this weekend in Modesto! Thank you state officers and alumni for putting on these great conferences! #ffaMFE #ffaALA #GustineFFA

frrankky "If your actions inspire others to learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader" #ffaALA #dynamicduo Advanced LEADERSHIP Acodeny

Hughson FFA attended the Made for Excellence Conference and Advanced Leadership Academy Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Modesto on February 3rd and 4th. At MFE, sophomores learned about SMART goals, how to investigate their own personal strengths, and new and exciting opportunities in the agricultural industry and FFA. They also learned how to define leadership and identify ways to be a leader in one's home and community. Sophomores explored tools for continuing leadership and personal growth, including "sharpen the saw." At ALA, juniors and seniors learned about understanding the focus of the National FFA organization and the fifteen areas of the Program of Activities: Growing Leaders, Building Communities and Strengthening Agriculture. Juniors and Seniors assess personal leadership qualities (Strengths, Triggers, Personality, and Learning Style) and also discovered methods of establishing buy-in and building support for their chapter projects. Hughson FFA members learned more about leadership and how to be a role model in their chapter and community. Overall, these Hughson FFA members thoroughly enjoyed their time at this conference and are looking forward to attending again next year. .

Michelle Borges | Hughson FFA Chapter



mejiajennyy ALA was a great experience that helped us unite and work as one. It was such a privilege to attend this conference!! #ffaALA

Reflection

ducktapedude2711 Epic time at #ffaMFE! Had a sweet dance, made a bunch of new friends and got to learn a ton more about leadership skills! #FFA #squad #blueandgold



jurupavalleyffa The past two days were full of leadership, learning, and of course laughter with this crew! Congratulations to our students who attended the Made for Excellence and Advanced Leadership Academy Conferences! Way to represent Jurupa Valley FFA! #JagAg #JVHSFFA #ffaMFE #ffaALA #leashes #NordyNordyNordy







ripon_ffa On our way to MFE/ALA! Our sophomores and juniors are going to be coming back Tuesday with plenty of valuable leadership skills to improve our chapter! #ffaMFE #ffaALA #LimitlessFFA #RiponFFA



marcos_mtz01 Had such an amazing time at #ffaMFE and I learned so many new things that I can hopefully put to use!



Favorite Memory



Best Laugh

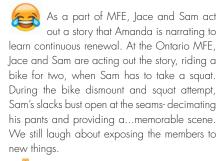


Farewell



ANDREW

ROLC! ROLC (Regional Officer Leadership Conference) is the first conference that we put on and our first "member" event. From tasting oysters to our epic dance, to slaying the volleyball tournament, it was a magical experience seeing our team come together. ROLC gave our team something to be proud of and provided a foundation for the rest of our year.



Thank you so much for providing me the fulfillment and purpose in my life that even adults search for. I thoroughly loved hearing your stories, teaching in your classrooms, and having fun at conferences. As much as I would love to do this forever, congratulations to the new team, and I wish them the best of luck as they forge their own path as state officers. Thank you for the journey of a lifetime.





LAUREN

Witnessing the participants of MFE Conferences across the state share their Promise Cards! We asked students to think of a promise they need to make & hold themselves accountable to. Hearing students share what is in their heart and show courage in sharing these powerful promises was a memory that I will never forget.

Sam & Conner brought home Nerf guns one day... We spent the rest of the afternoon in the most intense Nerf gun war known to man!

To the members of California FFA - from the bottom of my heart, thank you

for one of the most memorable and transformational years of my life. Thank you for giving me a family, a purpose and many blessings. I cannot wait to

...thank you for one of the most memorable and transformational years of my life.

see all of the incredible things you continue to accomplish. I am proud to wear a jacket that says California across the back. Thank you are two words I cannot say enough.

AMANDA

One of the coolest opportunities we had this year was meeting Mike Rowe at the FFA Foundation Gala! It was fascinating to learn all about the "Dirty Jobs" he has gone through and how many of those jobs showcase the true dedication of the individuals in agriculture.

The team and I decided to eat outside and set up a picnic. Just as we got everything in place I went to take a bite only to completely collapse from my chair and fall on the ground. The bad news: my food went down with me.

Wow, each and every single day I am in awe of the talent FFA members possess. All of you have something inside of you that shows your true passion for the organization and industry I have fallen in love with, agriculture. From the chapter visits to conferences and everything in between, thank you for the hard work and dedication you have poured into FFA. I will treasure the memories made and am beyond grateful to all of the FFA members I have been fortunate enough to encounter. Thank you for giving me the year of a lifetime and continue to pursue greatness in your lives'.

{ Continued on page 9 }

JACE



My fondest memory stems from our experience at every SOLC and COLC dance we attended. At every dance, Andrew and I were able to implement our own version of the Cha Cha Slide. Although not widely known before, many members will remember our shimmy slide and clap. Keep it up California FFA dancers!

SAMUEL

One of my favorite memories of this year was a chapter visit that Lauren and I had with the Orland FFA Chapter. On this visit we had a blast going mudding/off-roading with the chapter officer team. After a few hours of that we headed back to an officer's house for a huge home cooked meal. After our meal we started a bonfire and brought out some guitars, great sing-along songs and our dance moves. This visit made me feel as if I was home again.



CONNER

We took a trip to the northern part of California to spend time with my family and I decided to give my teammates the experience of jumping off a cliff into a river. Everyone had jumped off except Conner who was having a tough time. After he cried for his life for about ten minutes and refused to jump off, we forced him to so that each of us had the same experience. When he finally jumped, he let out a scream louder than ever before; even louder than when Sam sees spiders.

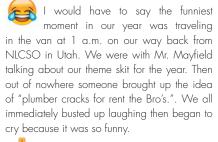


Ripping two pairs of slacks in the middle of an MFE from celebrating.

Thank you California FFA for giving me an extended family to enjoy this year and opening your homes to us as we traveled around the state. I have cherished each dance, laugh and conversation we had with each of you on our journey. I'll never forget the impact you all have made on my life. Thank you for an amazing year and making each moment a dream come true.

One of my fondest memories from this year was during the Superior Region COLC. We all got to sleep in cabins, go hiking, slide down a huge water slide, and even had a blast dancing underneath the stars to some good ol' country music. Everyone had a wonderful time learning about leadership and doing some team building, but alongside that we all had fun, smiled and at the end of the day and got to enjoy each other's friendship.

The gratitude and appreciation I have for every educator and member, goes far beyond any words. I am truly grateful to have spent a year of my life traveling California, creating memories, building friendships, and being a part of the FFA family. It has been incredible seeing members' success and triumphs, and I can't wait to see what other accomplishments will come in the future. The members and educators have made this year something I'll always cherish. Thank you for giving me the experience of a lifetime and a year that I'll never forget. I will always be proud to be from the California FFA family.



I'm so very thankful for the opportunity to serve this year. I'm going to miss every moment. I am grateful for all the memories made with everyone and I can't thank each of

...my teammates have been my closest friends... they have made this year so memorable...

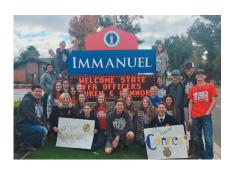
you enough for making this year so special. To everyone in the California FFA, thank you for giving me a family. My teammates have been my closest friends and I want

to thank each of them as well as they have made this year so memorable, I love you guys!











CALIFORNIA FFA FOUNDATION

BLUE AND GOLLE CAUCAL TALL TO SERVICE OF THE SER

FEBRUARY 22, 2017 CALIFORNIA FFA CENTER

FFA Week was extra special this year for the California FFA Foundation. Not only did we celebrate the ten-year anniversary of the FFA Center opening, but we hosted the Blue & Gold Gala. Over 500 agriculture industry leaders, alumni, current FFA members, teachers and others joined together at the FFA Center, to learn about the achievements of members, and more importantly, how they can support California FFA and the next generation of agricultural leaders. Oh yeah, Mike Rowe might have also come by to take part in the festivities!

California FFA Foundation past chair, Louie Brown, served as the emcee for the evening, keeping everyone engaged and entertained. Current Foundation Chair, Dennis Albiani highlighted the ways the Foundation is enhancing and increasing opportunities for current FFA members, while Mike Rowe shared an illustrative story about how he learned about A.I....which those of us in agriculture know does not stand for Artificial Intelligence! From there former member, Jake Parnell and the team from Parnell Dickinson joined us and auctioned off some great items while reminding everyone of how they can support the California FFA.

"It was a magical, entertaining and inspiring evening," noted Toosje Koll, Blue & Gold Gala Chair. "We know everyone who attended believes in the power and impact of the blue and gold as much as we do, and many of the them expressed their support that evening through the auction and pledge process. The future of the California FFA is bright because of our support from alumni and industry leaders."

In addition to all our wonderful sponsors who made the evening possible, the California FFA Foundation would like to thank all the FFA members, teachers and chapters who created centerpieces, welded floral stands, volunteered for setup and donated amazing one of a kind items for the auction.

For more information about the Blue & Gold Gala or the California FFA Foundation, please visit:

www.CalAgEd.org





Top: Foundation Board members Louie Brown and Toosje Koll, joined State Officer Conner Vernon on-stage to offer Mike Rowe a small token of our appreciation.

Bottom: Former FFA member, Richard Denier, and his wife, Kathy, graciously continued their long-term support of the California FFA during the Gala by purchasing the evening with Mike Rowe auction item.

{ Continued on page 11}

Thank you to our Gala Sponsors...

DIAMOND SPONSOR The James G. Boswell Foundation

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GOLD SPONSORS





SILVER SPONSORS











BRONZE SPONSORS

















TABLE SPONSORS











































Bowman Family Steve Willey



L.A. HEARNE COMPANY





Top: FFA members, Board members, alumni and guests enjoying an entertaining and engaging evening.

Middle: Thank you to Ponderosa and the Silkwood Family Foundation for their ongoing commitment to the California FFA.

Bottom: Following his remarks, Mike Rowe joined former FFA



{ Continued on page 13 }

Chapter & Cocooo



DELANO FFA Our Growing Garden

Submitted by Jessica Serrano

Our chapter had a goal to start our own garden, and last fall we achieved just that. We started small, with just pumpkins, and we later expanded to a variety of lettuce, cabbage, beans, and more. We rely on the help of our members to transplant, maintain, and harvest our garden. A majority of what is harvested is donated to our local distribution center for families in need and we recently started severing our vegetables at our school's cafeteria. Our next goal is to expand our garden to fruits, flowers and corn.

WESTWOOD FFA **FFA Week Festivities**

FFA Week in small town Westwood, California becomes a week filled with classroom visits, dress up days, and finally our First Annual FFA Ag Olympics. The chapter officers made this whole week not only fun for present and future members to enjoy, but threw in an extension of what FFA has brought to them. Silly games such as Hungry Hungry Hippos and toilet plunger fishing brought out everyone's silliest nature, while team building games like the softball bucket challenge showed off the cooperative spirit of FFA itself. FFA week showed our high school, middle school and elementary school kids that no matter what their plan in the future pertains to, they will always have a future in FFA.





LOS BANOS FFA Los Banos Food Science Elective Transforms Home Economics

Submitted by Sophia Castro

A FFA Agricultural Food Science elective at Los Banos High School has been under massive renovations for the past six years and is finally transformed from a simple Home Economics room to a Food Science Laboratory. LBHS received \$289,000 through the Central Region Agriculture Pathway Grant and from this, \$40,000 was specifically allocated to the Ag Food Science class to purchase commercial grade kitchen tools. In addition, the grant money funded food

handling and safety curriculum through an online educational program. A LBHS FFA Agricultural Food Science instructor explains that participation in the course is going to, "Allow our students to obtain a Food Safety Certificate that will help them in the future for employment and meets the school's pathway requirements." Projects in the class include working the self-sustaining garden. Peppers are hand picked from the garden located on campus and then taken to the food science laboratory where they are cleaned, cut, and separated.

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Bottom top: Jeana Hultquist from the Farm Credit Alliance kicked-off the pledge process with Farm Credit committing \$50,000/year for the next four years.

Bottom: Once the Gala was over, the State Officers kept Mike Rowe comfortable and entertained in the dorm.







Clockwise, starting at upper left: Thank you to The Zenith for their commitment to the FFA, as well as the sponsorship of Mike Rowe.

The State Officers shared with guests how they've witnessed FFA positively impacting members throughout California.

Thank you to Manteca FFA for the amazing floral centerpieces and Galt FFA for designing and fabricating the floral stands. All the flowers for the Gala were donated by the California Cut Flower Commission.

Mike Rowe worked the room with his humor as he sought bids for his 'Drinks with Mike Rowe' donated auction experience.



Chapter Scapp CONTINUED

{ Continued from page 12 }

EXETER FFA Exeter Citrus Success

Submitted by Grace Jardon

The Exeter FFA Citrus Judging team is well under way on a successful season. The team of five students, ranging from their freshmen to senior year, have shown immense improvement and success. The team attended the Reedley College Citrus Judging Contest on January 21st. Two team members placed in the top four, one as high individual and another as fourth high individual. The team placed first overall in the A contest. The citrus judging contest consists of the identification of the defects and pest damage that pose threats to the citrus



industry. Oranges, lemons, grapefruit, and citrus trees are just some of the citrus related produce at the contests. The students also give the reasons for their placings to a judge with a well rounded citrus background. We wish the team members the best of luck as they continue to build their knowledge of the citrus industry.



MCFARLAND FFA Family Show Day

Submitted by Gabriel Parra

A week prior to the Kern County Fair, the McFarland FFA Chapter hosted a Family Show Day at our school farm. This event helped demonstrate the hard work and time our members put into their SAE projects during the summer. We had our swine, lamb and goat exhibitors prepare and practice for the upcoming fairs by showing their animals in front of guest judges to get feedback. Family, friends, and school staff were welcome to support the exhibitors' hard work towards their SAE projects. During the friendly competition between the exhibitors, the judges ranked exhibitors on showmanship and asked questions

about their animals. Family Show Day was overall a wonderful event, and we hope that we continue to host this event in the upcoming years.

TRACY FFA

Submitted by Zac Sciortino

A Special Story

This past year Tracy High has been under threat that our Special Education Classes would be relocated to another school. As a population of students, we brought it to our district's attention that the Special Education classes are one of the most needed courses on campus. They don't only provide diversity and differences on campus but they teach students the value that we each possess. Notice of this spread to different schools and to athletes who support the cause to save the class. Tracy FFA wanted to show our gratitude for the



Special Education students so we invited them to join us for FFA Week! From kissing goats to cooking, we saw the happiness fill their eyes. On the last day, Tracy FFA planted flowers with the students to take home. We taught them the importance of caring for the flowers and the responsibilities they have. We now plan on making this a tradition every FFA Week! Tracy FFA is a chapter full of diversity and we hope other chapters will follow along to include everyone.

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TULARE FFA Tulare FFA "Cans" Hunger

Submitted by Evan Garcia

As Tulare FFA extends their community service outreach into the second semester of the school year, we have planned and executed a canned food drive for those less fortunate in our community, who did not have food during the holidays. Members of Tulare FFA brought in hundreds of cans that were donated to local food banks to be distributed among those who need it. Not only did we "can" hunger, this was and eye-opening and humbling experience for our members, that we wish to continue for years to come!





FIREBAUGH FFA Rolling Out The New Year With Firebaugh FFA

Submitted by Jacquelin Tinoco

Theme of this year's February meeting was bowling. It was held at Aqua Entertainment in Los Banos and it was outstanding to see our members get their game on. Many got strikes and were congratulated with cheers and applause and even if their roll wasn't as successful, they would encourage one another by saying "you'll get it next time." After they had finished their game of bowling they were allowed to go to the arcade or they could play a game of laser tag. The members took their pick and the ones that went to the arcade won some great prizes, whereas the members who played laser tag blasted their enemies away. In conclusion, this meeting was a striking success!



Your Chapter FFA

Tell us your chapter's scoop! Here's how...

- 1) Submit a 100-150 word article about your chapter's recent activity.
- a. Please do not include members or advisors names within the article.
- b. The article should be about an interesting and/or unique FFA activity. This is an opportunity
- to showcase new and innovative chapter activities.
- 2) Attach a GREAT quality digital photo.
- a. Photos should be in color and help further explain the submitted article.
- b. Photos must include members with appropriate clothing and behavior.
- c. Photos must be sent as individual jpeg files.

3) Email the above information to news@californiaffa.org.

The subject of the email must include your chapter's name. In the email, please include the author of the chapter scoop and title of the article.

4) Please reference page two for California FFA News revised submission deadlines. •





sanluisobispoffa Greenhand Leadership Conference is in effect! Proud to have 41 stellar students in attendance! #FFAGLC

lukeoleary lovin this and your pants.

stellaboller @jade._.norton slayyyyy

Add a comment...

Greenhand Leadership Conference (GLC)

September and October

Introduction to Agricultural Education

Introduces students to the benefits and opportunities in Agricultural Education, including SAE and FFA. This conference is the "hook-line-

GREENHAND

Agricultural Experience [SAE] and the National FFA Organization) and the three "Rs" model Relationships)

Explore the Six Benefits of Agricultural Education through hands on team challenges: Learning, Experience, Leadership, Competition, Travel and Personal Growth.

Education, which provide the Six Benefits:
Hands-On Instruction, Supervised Agricultural
Experience (SAE), Officers and Committees,
Career Development Events (CDE), Conventions
and Conferences.

Learn more about California FFA's leadership and personal growth conferences: GLC, MFE, ALA, SLE and WLC.

Develop a personal plan of action utilizing SMART goals that address the following areas:

Conference registration opens July 1st! Ask your Ag Instructor about attending today!





tracyhighffa Some of our members had the opportunity to experience #ffaGLC & in flying colors! This is just one step closer to becoming more involved in the program itself. We hope this event allowed you to dig deeper and "Identify more through Agriculture!" ** #ffa #TracyFFA

matt.p.bongiovanni guys had a fun time!





taycfoster not only am I grateful for my experiences within the FFA program, but what they have lead to outside of the jacket. I could create a book about what I've learned, but this photo describes well my passion for this organization. a little late on the bandwagon, but Happy FFA Week! ¥₩ #ffaqlc #missinit

schooloftravel keep exploring!

daboutlabs 🎂

Add a comment.





centralvalleyffa Three of our freshman at Foothill high school today for Greenhand Leadership Conference! #FFAGLC