



Arkansas Department of Career Education

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Arkansas Student Named National FFA President

LITTLE ROCK – Taylor McNeel, a junior majoring in agricultural business at Southern Arkansas University, was elected National FFA President at the 88th National Convention & Expo in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Vilonia native has been very active in Arkansas FFA, having served as the 2013-14 Arkansas FFA President.

“I cannot wait to get out on the road to meet you!” said McNeel in an Instagram video post to FFA Members.

McNeel’s ascendancy to the post was emotional not only for members but also for Arkansas FFA advisors. Jenna Guidry, one of the state advisors, taught McNeel when she was a student at Vilonia High School. Guidry said she can never forget McNeel’s passion for agriculture as early as ninth grade.

“Taylor has always been a good one. She’s very prepared. You could always tell that she had a specific drive. I told her after she was elected that I always knew she would do great things no matter where her path took her. I was just happy that I could show my love for FFA and it led to this accomplishment,” Guidry said.

McNeel credits Victoria Maloch, the previous National FFA Secretary also from Arkansas, for paving the way for McNeel. Maloch is studying agricultural business with a pre-law concentration at the University of Arkansas. She hopes to continue at the U of A to earn a law degree with an emphasis in agriculture and food law.

“Victoria definitely set the bar high for all of the candidates from Arkansas. It takes a special individual to serve over 620,000 members, and she definitely set that bar very high. I see a lot of similarities in Victoria and Taylor. I’m just glad that Victoria was there to support Taylor and to

open that door and to show Arkansas students that we have the capabilities to serve on a national level,” Guidry said.

McNeel will be busy as National FFA President. She will travel the country and abroad to advocate for the organization. Her commitment to FFA will require her to forego a year of school to serve.

About FFA: *FFA is an intercurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership. FFA continues to help the next generation rise up to meet those challenges by helping its members to develop their own unique talents and explore their interests in a broad range of agricultural career pathways.*

About the Arkansas Department of Career Education: *The Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) provides leadership and contributing resources to serve the diverse and changing career educational needs of Arkansas youth, adults, and persons living with disabilities. For more information about ACE and other programs please visit the website www.ace.arkansas.gov or follow us on Twitter at @ARCareerEd.*

