



**2018 Wyoming FFA Convention**  
April 18-21, 2018  
Cheyenne, Wyoming  
[www.wyomingffa.org](http://www.wyomingffa.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **WYOMING FFA RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING SERVICE WITH HONORARY FFA DEGREE**

Wyoming FFA recognized 14 individuals and organizations with the Honorary State FFA Degree on Friday, April 20, 2018. The award is the highest honor the organization can bestow on a non-member.

“Wyoming FFA relies on the support of exceptional teachers, individuals and companies to provide life-changing experiences for its members,” said State FFA Advisor Stacy Broda. “Each year, at the Wyoming FFA Convention, those who have made outstanding contributions to FFA are honored with Distinguished Service Citations, VIP awards or the Honorary State FFA Degree.

The recipients were honored in a special ceremony at the Cheyenne Civic Center by the 2017-2018 State FFA Officers.

The award recipients were as follows:

#### **Jillian Balow, Cheyenne**

Jillian Balow has been an outstanding advocate for agriculture education and the FFA over the past four years as she has served as the Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction. Jillian has not only taken an active role in the local FFA chapter where her daughter serves as Chapter Reporter, but she also has been very involved in many aspects of the FFA at a regional and state level as well. She is a strong proponent of career and technical education, providing support and assistance for programs such as agriculture education, industrial arts and family and consumer sciences. Jillian has continually supported events such as Wyoming State Fair and the Blue Jean Ball, and has always represented agriculture well in various meetings and forums around the state.

#### **Randall Haefele, Wright**

Randall Haefele has served as the Wright FFA Chapter advisor and agricultural education teacher for the last four years. During these four years he has given unwavering support to his students and put in countless extra hours for their behalf. Randall is passionate about agriculture and the FFA and his energy spreads into his students. He always expects the very best from his students and pushes them to put in the extra work. He stays late in the evenings and meets the CDE teams early in the mornings before school in order to help them achieve success.

**Bryce Hoffman, Newcastle**

Bryce Hoffman is a Woods teacher at Newcastle High School. Bryce is very deserving of an FFA Honorary Degree and has been nominated due to his character, support, and desire to jump in and provide assistance with whatever task is requested of him. He has not only shown support to the Newcastle FFA Chapter through creating plaques, assisting with classes, and giving advice and suggestions to create a more successful program. He has also assisted with the Hulett program by creating a large laser engraved plaque for a memorial bench, the Upton Ag program by creating the plaques for District Speech 2017, and the 2018 District and Regional Plaques for the Moorcroft Chapter.

**Micah Humphreys, Powell**

Micah is an Associate Professor of Agroecology and Range Management at Northwest College in Powell. Micah has been a constant supporter of FFA in Wyoming and has organized the Agronomy and Environmental and Natural Resources Competitions at NWC for the past several years giving FFA Members the opportunity to hone their skills in these events prior to heading off for our State Leadership Conference. Micah is always willing to help with FFA Activities and has given valuable input helping to make our Agronomy and ENR Career Development Events relevant and enjoyable. We would like to thank Micah for all his efforts.

**Lanae McDonald, Cheyenne**

Lanae McDonald is an instructor in Equine Studies and the Equestrian Team coach for LCCC in Cheyenne. For more than 10 years, Lanae has helped host and conduct the state FFA horse evaluation career development event. She secures horses for FFA members to judge, lines up students to handle and ride horses as well as take reasons. She also helps coordinate the actual event, ensuring a quality and challenging competition for our FFA members each year. Lanae graduated from LCCC in 2003 and attended Kansas State University before returning to LCCC to coach and teach. She and her husband, Scott, are both avid 4-H and FFA supporters.

**Bryce Meyer, Powell**

Bryce Meyer is the Agriculture Education Teacher and FFA Advisor for the Powell Shoshone FFA, and has been teaching for going on 27 years. He loves spending time in the classroom and shop helping students complete projects and progress through the ag and welding program. Bryce Meyer enjoys staying involved in the agriculture industry by working for local ranchers and continuing his education at Northwest College at the welding college allowing him to keep up on what is happening in the ag and welding industry.

**Taylor Reiniets, Newcastle**

Taylor Reiniets is a second year Agricultural Educator and FFA Advisor. Taylor grew up in Gillette and was a member of 4-H, FFA, and several rodeo and other organizations. She was heavily involved in ag, welding, and automotive courses. Taylor earned a degree in agriculture education and a minor in biology from the University of Wyoming. She is currently the Newcastle High School ag teacher and Saddle and Sirloin FFA Advisor. She teaches high school ag mechanics, metal fabrications, agriscience, and agribusiness courses along with after school middle school ag club and adult education courses.

**Kaitlyn Steben, Torrington**

Kaitlyn Steben is an instructor at EWC in the animal science Department. Kaitlyn helps host the annual state veterinary science career development event each year in Torrington. Kaitlyn helps organize classes, judge practicums and score the contest. Kaitlyn also owns and operates Shoo Fly Soap Company in Torrington, making lotions, soaps and other products using milk from her family's goats. Shoo Fly Soap Company is this year's featured company in the agriculture sales career development event. Kaitlyn and her husband, Ty, run a farm in Goshen County.

**Bruce Thoren, Shoshoni**

Bruce Thoren is the superintendent of Fremont County School #24. He has been a huge supporter of CTE education, both as a parent and as an administrator. Bruce has been in education for the past 28 years. He has served as an Industrial Arts teacher, Technology Director, Principal, and Superintendent. Bruce has spent his career supporting Career and Technical education. Recently, he has worked on several key issues with Hathaway and school funding. Bruce has a "make it happen" attitude, which he instills in his employees and students.

**Jaelyn Whaley, Laramie**

Jaelyn Whaley has served on the Wyoming FFA nominating committee for the last three years, helping conduct state FFA officer interviews and choose the state officer team. Jaelyn is a past Colorado State FFA Officer and earned her American FFA Degree in 2014. She grew up in the Yampa valley of Colorado, assisting on her family's lambing operation. Jaelyn graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2017. She recently accepted an assistant at the University of Wyoming working with the American Lamb Board and the USDA National Sheep Industry Improvement Center doing a study on the economic impact of overfat lambs in the processing plant.

**Roz Schliske, Cheyenne**

Rosalind "Roz" Schliske is a journalism instructor at Laramie County Community College. Roz received numerous accolades for her work with the school and the Wingspan Newspaper over her 40 years teaching. Her dedication to the program and her students was second to none. The LCCC Wingspan received over 26th consecutive years as one of the top college student newspapers in the country under her direction. Roz's late husband, Robert Schliske was a former ag teacher and one of the founding instructors at LCCC. Roz is carrying on the legacy she and Robert created by supporting the youth in Wyoming FFA.

**Bill Shephard Memorial, Wheatland**

The Bill Shephard Memorial was founded in 1998 after the passing of Bill Shephard. Bill was an active member of the Wheatland FFA from 1950-1953. His SAE's included beef production and diversified crop production. Bill went on to become the Wyoming State FFA President from 1953-1954. Since his passing in 1998, the Bill Shephard Memorial has provided a \$100 award at the Platte County Fair and \$500 at the Wyoming State Fair for the Grand Champion Market Beef. This year will mark the twentieth anniversary of the memorial award totaling \$12,000. Receiving the award tonight in Bill's honor is his wife Mary Louise Shephard and his son Marty Shephard.

**Keith Cashman, Cheyenne**

Keith Cashman is the Machine Sales Representative for Laramie, Platte, Goshen and Niobrara Counties for Wyoming Machinery Company. Keith has been instrumental in several special projects of the Wyoming FFA Association and Foundation, including securing sponsorship for our convention app through and providing provide industry tours at Wyoming Machinery. Keith also understands the importance of preserving our history and has a long family history with Wyoming FFA. Keith's grandfather Floyd was the official Wyoming FFA photographer for over two decades. When going through his grandfather, Floyd Cashman's estate, he found numerous FFA photos and memorabilia. He helped provide background information and shared FFA memorabilia with a display in his grandfather's honor in the Blue and Gold museum at State Fair.

**Will Luna, Cheyenne**

Cheyenne native Will Luna is no stranger to agriculture education and FFA. Will was a member of the Cheyenne FFA, received a degree in agricultural education from the University of Wyoming and taught in Colorado prior to coming back to Wyoming. Currently Will is the convention sales manager at the Cheyenne Convention and Visitors Bureau. Will works diligently ever year for our convention with room blocks, tour ideas, and convention logistics. Will always has a smile on his face, is willing to help judge contests, and make our convention better every year.

The Wyoming FFA Association is part of the National FFA Organization, formerly known as Future Farmers of America. This youth organization has more than half a million student members nationwide, and more than 2,900 in 54 chapters in Wyoming. 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.

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