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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

By Sarah Spradlin and Jordan DeWitt

**RECIPIENTS OF THE WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE RECOGNIZED AT THE 89th GEORGIA FFA STATE CONVENTION**

MACON, Ga. – Recipients of the Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) Scholarship were recognized at the 89th State FFA Convention held at the Macon Centreplex on April 27-29, 2017.

At the Washington Leadership Conference, FFA members from across the United States meet in the Capitol to put leadership into action. While at the conference, members learn to value people, take action, and serve others while participating in leadership activities and community service. The WLC Scholarships presented at the convention will pay for Georgia FFA members to attend the conference this summer.

The 2017 Larry and Gwen Corzine WLC Scholarship recipients were Tyleranne Puzder of Locust Grove, Philip Babin of Effingham County, and Renee Dickman of Veterans. The parents of Central Region Agricultural Education Director, Chris Corzine, award these scholarships to FFA members from Areas 3 and 4.

The 2017 Terry England WLC Scholarship was awarded to Austin Hill of East Jackson. Representative England is a past Georgia FFA Alumni Association President and past member of the National FFA Alumni Association Board of Directors.

The winner of the 2017 Mort Ewing WLC Scholarship was Ava Jane Teasley of Eastside FFA. Mr. Ewing sponsors this scholarship annually in honor of his service as the Georgia State Farm Bureau President.

The Warren Wilkinson Memorial Scholarship was presented to Jeret Royston of Franklin County. State Senator and retired Agricultural Education Program Manager, John Wilkinson, sponsors this scholarship in memory of his father, Mr. Warren Wilkinson, a former FFA member, agricultural education teacher, principal and county school superintendent. He was a passionate supporter of the FFA program and was awarded both the Honorary State and American FFA Degrees.

Aaron Beardon of North Murray received the 2017 Rozier Wingate WLC Scholarship. Mr. John Barnes and the Gilmer County FFA Alumni sponsor this scholarship in memory of Mr. Wingate, a lifetime member and past president of the Gilmer County FFA Alumni.

The 2017 Elliot and Christy Marsh scholarship went to Marlyn Grantham of Southeast Bulloch. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh donate this scholarship annually to be received by an FFA member in Bulloch County.

The 2017 Gary Williamson Memorial WLC Scholarships were presented to Clifton “CJ” Edwards of Pelham. This scholarship is generously sponsored by the Georgia Feed and Grain Association in memory of Mr. Gary Williamson.

The winners of the 2017 Young Farmer WLC Scholarships were Macee Palmer of Miller County and Daylon Smith of North Murray, which was sponsored by the Georgia Young Farmer Association.

The 2017 WLC Scholarships sponsored by the Georgia FFA Alumni Association were received by Conway McNeil of Berrien County and Brooklyn Carr of Sonoraville.

The winners of the 2016 Blue and Gold Gala WLC Scholarships were Vincent Simmons of McIntosh Academy, Justin Sandlin of Echols County, Elhana Kelly of Creekview, and Marissa Pitts of Long County.

The following local Farm Bureau WLC scholarships were awarded: the Pecan Ridge Plantation Scholarship was awarded to Michaele Bryant of Bainbridge, the Colquitt County Farm Bureau Scholarship was awarded to Kaitlyn Hart of Colquitt County, the Decatur County Farm Bureau Scholarship was awarded Katelyn Ward of Bainbridge, the Hall County Farm Bureau Scholarship was awarded Katelyn Smith of North Hall, and the Miller County Farm Bureau Scholarship was awarded Emilee Nunnery of Miller County.

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, changed its name in 1988 to reflect the growth and diversity of agriculture. There are more than 600,000 FFA members nationwide. The Georgia Association has more than 41,000 members, making it the third largest Association in the nation. The FFA makes 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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