



Iowa FFA Foundation

Cultivating partnerships supporting agricultural education in Iowa

September 2021 | www.iowaffafoundation.org | [Donate](#)

Executive Director's Reflections

Friends,

Inspiration comes in many forms. From brave military personnel and first responders who run toward harm's way when everyone else is running away, to a mentor who knows just what to say to get you fired-up to tackle the challenges ahead of you. As September brings football season, we see so many teams outperforming what they should be able to do on paper – why? They were inspired – by each other and likely, by their coach.

For many of us who have been in agricultural education, this has been their FFA or PAS advisor. Like many in this column, I still remember each day phrases my advisor, Mr. Selness, shared to challenge me. At the time, many of these coaching lessons, well... they just were frustrating. Ultimately, however, his words have inspired me for more than 25 years now and honestly, I wouldn't be where or who I am today without his guidance and inspiration.

Some of us may never get the chance to fully share with our mentors exactly how they have changed our lives, yet others – you, my friends, are privileged to fully articulate this impact. Do you have a special agricultural educator in your community who is still in the classroom? Help us tell them how much of an impact they made in your life, in the lives of others, in the community. Help us lift them up when they are buried in a mountain of grading or after numerous hours of coaching one of many teams. Help us inspire their inspiration. Please take one moment, and nominate an educator for the Golden Owl Award!



Sincerely,

Josh

Scholarship Application Period Open for Six Scholarships

The Iowa FFA Foundation is now accepting applications for six college scholarship programs to be awarded for the 2022-23 academic year. Scholarship program information and details can be found at <https://www.iowaffafoundation.org/scholarships.aspx>. The deadline to apply for all scholarships is January 7, 2022.

Scholarships Include:

Haney Family Foundation Entrepreneurial Scholarship- The Haney Family Foundation Entrepreneurial Scholarship has been established to promote and celebrate entrepreneurial innovations of Iowa FFA members. Do you have your own business or idea that has the potential to make a major impact on agriculture? The Haney Family Foundation Entrepreneurial Scholarship is being provided annually through the Iowa FFA Foundation as specified by the Haney Family Foundation. Two \$2,500 college scholarships will be presented annually to Iowa FFA members.

Arthur and Susan Churchill Endowed Scholarship-The Arthur and Susan Churchill Endowed Scholarship is provided annually through the generous memorial and honorary gifts to the Iowa FFA Foundation by Susan and the late Arthur Churchill, and their family. The Arthur and Susan Churchill Scholarship Fund will offer one \$1,000 scholarship to a full-time agriculture student.

Dennis D. Selness Memorial Scholarship- Dennis Selness was the agricultural education instructor/FFA advisor at Linn-Mar High School, in Marion, Iowa, for 28 years. During this time, Selness primarily focused on creating innovative opportunities for agricultural education/FFA young people to help them develop to their fullest potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. The Dennis Selness Scholarship Fund will offer one \$1,000 scholarship to a full-time agriculture student.

DLL Financial Solutions Scholarship-The DLL Financial Solutions Scholarship Fund will offer one scholarship each to two full-time students. Each scholarship awarded in 2022 will be \$2,350

Sinclair Tractor Scholarship- The Sinclair Tractor FFA Scholarship will offer one scholarship each to five full-time students. Each scholarship awarded in 2022 will be \$2,500. This scholarship is open to residents within the Sinclair Tractor service territory in one of the following 18 Iowa counties: Appanoose, Cedar, Davis, Des Moines, Henry, Iowa, Jefferson, Johnson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine, Poweshiek, Scott, Van Buren, Wapello, Washington and Wayne.

Severson Family Memorial Scholarship-Mike & Lynn Patton are honored to pay tribute to Lynn's family— Orville, Velma, Elizabeth and Julius — and their legacy of hard work, perseverance and strength. It is a privilege to provide a lasting memorial of their ideals by supporting future agriculture students. The Severson Family Memorial Scholarship will provide one \$500 scholarship to an FFA member from Forest City, Iowa.



Golden Owl Nominations Now Open

Through the Golden Owl Award, agricultural educators will be recognized and rewarded for their essential and selfless role as they work to prepare future generations for successful careers. It is only through the dedicated service, coaching and mentorship by their ag educator that FFA

members are able to achieve their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

The Golden Owl Award, now in its fourth year, rewards seven Iowa teachers each year, one from each of FFA's six Iowa districts and one from a postsecondary institution. Those educators will be honored with an event at their school next February and receive a plaque and a \$500 donation.

One of the seven will also be awarded the grand prize, announced during the Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference next April, and receive the title of Iowa's Ag Educator of the Year, the Golden Owl Award trophy and a \$3,000 donation.

Nominations for the 2022 Golden Owl Award will be accepted online through Dec. 1 at <https://bit.ly/3y6yKDT>.





Registration Now Open!

THE IOWA FFA FOUNDATION'S 8TH ANNUAL

Black Ties Blue Jackets Gala

Saturday

February 19, 2022

Visit

<https://2022BlueJackets.givesmart.com>

To Register Today!

Iowa's Give the Gift of Blue
Applications Now Open



We are very excited that through a generous gift from Glenn and Ginger Sterk of Grinnell, Iowa, these passionate and dedicated FFA members from across our state who are unable to afford an FFA jacket of their own will now have the opportunity to receive the gift of an FFA jacket - shipped to their home, free of charge.

Glenn was the President of the Montezuma FFA Chapter for two consecutive years (1961-'62) and was able to do this while originally wearing his brother's FFA jacket! When he was finally able to earn enough to purchase

his own jacket he was overcome by the sense of pride in the organization and for his family - specifically his parents! Glenn knows the positive impact this has for students and wants to ensure as many students as possible are able to reach their fullest potential by having their own FFA jacket.

Through the hours in class, time in practice before or after school or traveling to distant FFA functions, you as an FFA Advisor get to know your students very well. Some of these students have many opportunities and are able to excel naturally. There are also students who work extremely hard to develop their potential for leadership in our organization but occasionally do not have the financial means to reach their goals. Many of our FFA Advisors find themselves in this position each day and in this unique and special way, we wish to assist you and your students who need our help the most. Through this program we hope to assist these students in a confidential way to ensure they reach their fullest potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

If you know of a student that could benefit through this special program please contact your local FFA Advisor. Agriculture Educators please note that the application period is now open through November 1st. More information on Iowa's Gift of Blue program can be found at <https://www.iowaffafoundation.org/give-gift-of-blue.aspx> Nominations will be kept confidential and share only with the selection committee.

The next selection will be November 6th, 2022



Support FFA as a member of The Corduroy Club

Your monthly gift of any size can make a lasting impact on FFA members across the state!

No matter the size, your act of generosity will make a substantial impact to agricultural education in Iowa.

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Iowa FFA Foundation

FFA Enrichment Center [1055 SW Prairie Trail Pkwy. Ankeny, IA 50023](#)