



INDIANA FFA ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Indiana FFA recognizes Distinguished Service Award Recipients

*Two members of the agriculture education community tabbed for exceptional
service to Indiana FFA.*

West Lafayette, IN (June 21, 2023) – Indiana FFA recognized two people for their dedication to agriculture education and FFA at the 94th Indiana FFA State Convention on Wednesday. Blake Hackman and Dr. Allen Talbert were recognized.

Mr. Blake Hackman has continually made strides in improving agriculture and agriculture education across Indiana. Throughout his 35 + years of teaching in Indiana, Mr. Hackman has proven his dedication to the future of agriculture education in Indiana, by consistently opening up his classroom to student teachers, allowing them to gain experience and learn from his wealth of knowledge. He has also provided thousands of students with unique opportunities, now producing 2 state officers, and countless section directors and district officers. Likewise, Mr. Hackman has remained persistent in maintaining and upgrading the Indiana FFA Leadership Center grounds each year. Under his direction, the Brownstown Central FFA Chapter has been responsible for building the Robert Myers Memorial Flag Deck, the purchase and placement of the Covered Bridge, and the renewal of the FFA bushes that are seen across the lake. From the Leadership Center alone, one can see the enormous impact Mr. Hackman has made in these respective areas. He has received numerous awards and recognitions from NAAE and IAAE for his commitment to better those around him, even earning the Honorary American Degree for his continued dedication to National FFA. It is our pleasure to present Mr. Blake Hackman with his Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Allen Talbert is a name that most will quickly recognize. Not only has he served as a Professor of Agriculture Education at Purdue University for 40 years, he also serves as Coordinator of the Agricultural Education Program Area. In his current position, he has researched underrepresented populations in agriculture, ethnic minorities in secondary agricultural education, and now is focused on the factors that contribute to a successful urban secondary agricultural education program. His extensive work with IAAE and the ASEC Department at Purdue University, has provided Ag Educators with experiences and resources that make Indiana Ag Ed a special program to be a part of. Receiving countless awards from the American Association for Agricultural Education and Purdue University, Dr. Talbert is truly the reason that Indiana FFA members have the chance to excel. Indiana Ag Ed is blessed because of his work and dedication to raise this generation of educators. It is with great honor, we present Dr. Allen Talbert with his Distinguished Service Award.



The Distinguished Service Award is to recognize teachers who have received their Honorary Degree and have continued to provide exceptional service on a state and national level to agriculture, agricultural education, or FFA.

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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.