PRESS RELEASE

Maryland Agricultural Educators Conference 2019

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Maryland Agricultural Educators Professional Development Conference at UMES

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore in Princess Anne, Maryland hosted the over 30 agricultural educators for professional development on campus July 7-10, 2019. The college’s department of Agriculture, Food and Natural Sciences welcomed the group by sponsoring the use of the Henson Conference Center for the event. Mr. Karl Binns, UMES Development Officer and Mr. Stephon Fitzpatrick, UMES Coordinator for the school of agriculture were instrumental in providing their services to host the conference on campus and to execute the various tours and workshops.

An array of professional workshops were held by UMES faculty to include: Dr. Kumar on his extensive research on orchard propagation and strawberries; Dr. Escobar on the importance of managing parasites in maintaining healthy farm animals; and Ms. Tracie Bishop presented a workshop on GIS/GPS teaching strategies for the classroom. We also had the following local presenters conduct workshops: Tom Hawthorne, Linganore High- Small Gas Engine Skill Stations; Jerry Kelley, Parkside CTC- Getting Community Support for Ag Programs; Jodi Callahan, Caroline CTC- Utilizing Google Forms in the Classroom; Shannon Dill, UMD Extension for Talbot County- Assessing Human Personality Strengths; Christine Johnston, UMD Extension for Queen Annes County- National Safe Tractor Instructional Training; Keith Shane, Smyrna High in DE- Extensive training in Online Recordkeeping for Supervised Agricultural Experiences for students; Ginny Rosenkranz, UMD Eastern Shore Area Extension Educator- Preserving Pollinators; and Russell Noratel from Maryland Department of Agriculture-proper management and application of chemicals and pesticides. Karen Hutchison, Local Program Specialist presented updates from the National FFA Organization while Terrie Shank, Executive Director gave updates for the Maryland FFA.

Offsite tours were held in and around Salisbury, MD during the conference. The group toured the Perdue Innovations Center, where research and development of products are housed for the Perdue Foods Corporation. Then ventured to the working greenhouses of Parkside CTC High School that utilizes researched based learning for their students giving them real life experiences in operating a thriving plant production business. Then off to Smith Island to experience the aquaculture and ecology of the island and learn the symbiosis of its sustainability.

An awards luncheon was held at the conclusion of the conference. The keynote speaker was Elizabeth Galbreath, grew up in Harford County, graduate of Virginia Tech, and is now a Seed Advisor for US Agricultural Solutions for BASF Corporation.

College Scholarships to attend the conference for free were presented to: Amanda Farmer, Bethany Meyers and Kelcey Trewin, all are Agricultural Education Majors.

Years of Service Awards were presented to: Jamie Snider, Hancock Middle/High School- 5 years; Quinn Cashell Martin, Boonsboro High- 5 years; and Leasa Gudderra, Gwynn Park High- 20 years.

National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Awards were presented to the following: Teacher Turn the Key- Richard Stonebraker, Frederick High; Outstanding Early Career Teacher- Thomas Mazzone, Clear Spring High; Outstanding Teacher- Diane Herndon, Frederick CTC; Outstanding Program- Middletown High; Outstanding Postsecondary/Adult Program- University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Outstanding Cooperator- Karl Binns, UMES; Outstanding Service Citation- Susan Lowery, Retired MD Ag Educator; and lifetime Achievement- Dr. Ronald Seibel for 65 years in agricultural education.

Maryland Agricultural Teachers Association (MATA) Awards were presented to:

Horticulture- Jerry Kelley, Parkside CTC High; Animal Science- Pat Beachy, Linganore High and Jodi Callahan, Caroline County High; FFA Leadership- Stacy Eckles, Southern High; Agricultural Mechanics- Doug Hering, Frederick CTC; CASE- Aaron Geiman, Westminster High; Floriculture- Quinn Cashell Martin, Boonsboro High; Middle School Agriscience- Jamie Snider, Hancock M/H; SAE- Sara Seiser; Spreading the Word- Thomas Mazzone; Teacher of Teachers- Tom Hawthorne.

Outstanding Service Citations were awarded to the Conference Planning Committee comprising of Jessica Flores, Chairperson, Stephon Fitzpatrick, representing UMES and Naomi Knight, MD FFA Program Coordinator and liaison for MAEF and the MATA partnership.

The 2019-2020 MATA Executive Board is comprised of:

Past President- Lori Mayhew, Damascus High

President- Tom Hawthorne, Linganore High

President Elect- Diane Herndon, Frederick CTC

Secretary- Quinn Cashell Martin, Boonsboro High

Treasurer- Roy S. Walls, Jr.

Reporter- Thomas Mazzone, Clear Spring High

Membership Chair- Richard Stonebraker, Frederick High