

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ag foundation celebrates 35th anniversary; donors and teachers recognized

The Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (KFAC) held its Annual Meeting Nov. 16, 2017 at the Kansas Wheat Innovation Center in Manhattan. Thirty-two donors, teachers, board members and staff attended the celebration.

KFAC board chairman, Bill Spiegel, welcomed guests and offered thanks and congratulations to everyone involved in promoting agriculture in Kansas classrooms over the past year. As a special 35th anniversary celebration, Cathy Musick, KFAC executive director, recognized donors who have generously supported KFAC over the last 15 years. The giving levels included: Platinum at \$100,000 or more; Kansas Wheat and Soybean and Corn Commissions; Gold at \$50,000 - \$99,000, Kansas Farm Bureau; Silver Level of \$25,000 - \$49,999 Kansas Department of Agriculture and NRCS of Kansas; and Bronze Level of \$10,000 - \$24,000, Frontier Farm Credit and Farm Credit Association of Kansas. Ag Advocate Donors awarded included Franklin and Jackson County Conservation Districts.

After hearing an update on the annual work of the Foundation, attendees heard an inspiring presentation by Wanda Small, Atchison County Schools the 2018 Janet Sims Memorial Teacher of the Year. Also presenting were the regional teacher winners sponsored by the Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation through the Teacher of the Year program. They included, John Colle, Hutchinson High School, Sarah Clancy, USD 383 Manhattan, and teacher team from Service Valley Charger Academy, Oswego, Rochelle Sheddrick and Sheila Robison. These were all recipients of the 2018 Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Excellence in Teaching award. These teachers shared how they work to make agriculture a core component of their teaching methods and activities and the impact it has on their students.

As recipients of the award, Small will receive an all-expense paid trip to the National Agriculture in the Classroom (NAITC) conference, to be held in Portland Maine, June of 2018. Her trip is sponsored by High Plains Journal and AG am in Kansas. The regional winners will receive their choice of a \$600 scholarship for the NAITC conference or a \$200 cash prize to be used to purchase agriculture supplies for their classrooms. Their prize is sponsored by Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture.

The Golden Apple award for outstanding service over the years was presented to board member, Roberta Spencer of Jackson County Conservation District. Roberta has provided leadership to KFAC on the education committee for a number of years.

Receiving Yeti, retirement mugs were, Larry Parker, Investment Committee treasurer for over 30 years and Pat Parker, retiring accountant. Also receiving retirement gifts were chairman, Bill Spiegel and Marketing Committee chair, Holly Martin of High Plains Journal.

For more information about KFAC or the Annual Meeting, please visit www.ksagclassroom.org.

About Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom

The Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. KFAC was founded in 1982 as part of a nationwide initiative to help students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies. For more information, visit www.ksagclassroom.org or phone (785) 320-4350.

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