

PRESS RELEASE

HAYLEY MILLIRON NAMED 2023 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio— Hayley F. Milliron of Springfield, Ohio, has been named a 2023 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

“The Distinguished Senior Award is the most prestigious undergraduate award in CFAES and honors top graduating seniors on the Ohio State Columbus campus,” said Ann Christy, CFAES professor and associate dean for academic programs. “The 25 award recipients exemplify the CFAES mission in areas such as academics and scholarship, research and innovation, service and involvement, and influence and leadership.”

Milliron, an agriscience education major in the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership (ACEL), was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that she personified the award’s attributes of academic, disciplinary, and professional excellence.

The Clark County resident said that she consistently tries new teaching methods and activities to provide her students with more effective learning. “In the classroom, I think through activities and lessons to make sure they apply to issues and new technology within the agricultural industry,” she said. “In addition to my major coursework, I added Spanish and horticulture minors to broaden my knowledge and prepare for my future.”

Milliron said her most valuable learning experience came when she declared a Spanish minor as a freshman. “It was one of the best decisions I made. Through my Spanish courses, I acquired knowledge that will guide me to be inclusive and provide diverse lessons in the classroom,” she said. “The ability to speak Spanish will benefit me throughout my career. The classes have given me the knowledge to accommodate my students and diversify my lessons.”

Although Milliron was on the Dean’s List each semester, she faced one consistent challenge, dyslexia. “This learning disability became more prevalent during my college career and made my classes difficult for me, especially during the pandemic,” she said. “While at times it can be frustrating, I have found tools that have made navigating these issues easier.”

But her greatest sense of accomplishment, she said, “came from passing the assessments required for my teaching license. That experience meant that I was able to move forward with my passion for teaching and agriculture.”

She also completed two internships, one as lead summer science camp assistant at Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois, where she co-taught an environmental-related camp course. She also served as a student teacher in the agriculture sciences program at Big Walnut High School in Sunbury, Ohio.

In addition, Milliron completed undergraduate research under her advisor and assistant professor, Amanda Bowling. “My research project focused on family food insecurity during COVID-19 and the impact of emergency meal plans. We identified the emergency meal distribution process in rural Ohio schools during COVID and how food access changed after COVID. The research can be used to improve food access during emergency situations.”

She was also a member and secretary of the Agricultural Education Society and served as a CFAES Peer Mentor for incoming and transfer students. “I helped students navigate the university during their first year and provided resources to the students to help them be successful,” she said.

After graduation, Milliron plans to either to become a high school teacher of agriculture in Illinois or pursue a master’s degree in agricultural education at Ohio State.

A reception for the Distinguished Senior Award recipients and their families was held on Wednesday, March 22, hosted by Ann Christy and Cathann A. Kress, vice president for agricultural administration and CFAES dean. Meet the 25 outstanding students and learn more about each via a YouTube video release at go.osu.edu/CFAES2023DSA.

In autumn 2022, there were 2,248 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing bachelor of science degrees in 22 majors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at go.osu.edu/B4V2.



Hayley F. Milliron

SPRINGFIELD, OH

AGRISCIENCE EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATION,
EDUCATION, AND LEADERSHIP

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