

PRESS RELEASE

BRANSON D. VAN FLEET NAMED 2024 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Branson D. Van Fleet of Pleasant City, Ohio, has been named a 2024 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 23 award recipients exemplify the CFAES mission in areas such as academics and scholarship, research and innovation, service and involvement, and influence and leadership.”

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

The Noble County resident appeared on the dean’s list each semester while also completing internships and leadership experiences with several organizations. He served as an Ohio FFA state officer for the Ohio FFA Association, then worked at Ohio FFA Camp Muskingum as a member of the Summer Camp Staff Team. He served as an Ohio State Fair intern with Ohio Farm Bureau, and he worked with the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) as both a #TeachAG Ambassador and an NAAE Convention intern.

Van Fleet’s extracurricular activities included service as a CFAES Ambassador, a member of the CFAES Student Council, and former president of the Agricultural Education Society.

His greatest sense of accomplishment, however, came from his student teaching experience. Students majoring in agriscience education spend their last semester of college student teaching in an Ohio school and agricultural education program. “I am completing my student teaching at Licking Valley High School with Colton Kreager. It didn’t take me long to feel at home in the program,” said Van Fleet. “I soon found myself teaching new subjects and building confidence in the classroom. The relationships I have built with both the students and my mentor teacher have made me excited to go to school each day. This experience has taught me that I can tackle any challenge and am capable of being a successful teacher.”

Caryn Filson, Van Fleet’s academic advisor and associate professor of agriscience education, shared that she was “consistently impressed with Branson’s level of maturity, self-awareness, and reliability as a student at Ohio State. I believe his character, work ethic, sense of service, and commitment to Ohio State are qualifications that make him a distinguished senior in CFAES. Branson exemplifies what it means to be a Buckeye and has made an impact on the Ohio State community.”

After graduation, Van Fleet will start work as an agricultural educator and FFA advisor at Maysville High School in Zanesville where he will help the school district start a new program. He also plans to obtain his master’s degree within the next few years.

2024 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AWARD

Academic Programs

100 Agricultural Administration
2120 Fyffe Road | Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-6891 | students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu

A reception for the Distinguished Senior Award recipients and their families was held on Thursday, April 4, hosted by Ann Christy and Cathann A. Kress, Ohio State vice president for agricultural administration and CFAES dean. Meet the 23 outstanding students and learn more about each via a YouTube video release at go.osu.edu/CFAES2024DSA.

“Honoring the award recipients for their excellence will be a highlight for us this spring. These students have excelled and most certainly will continue to thrive in their future careers,” said Christy.

In autumn 2023, there were 2,224 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing Bachelor of Science degrees in 21 majors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs at go.osu.edu/B4V2.



Branson D. Van Fleet

PLEASANT CITY, OH

Agriscience Education

Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership

Photo available by sending a request to flood.13@osu.edu

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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