

Press Release

March 7, 2019

McClain Named 2019 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Cody McClain of Nevada, Ohio has been named a 2019 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University's College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

"The Distinguished Senior Award is the most prestigious undergraduate award in CFAES, recognizing the top graduating seniors from each of the academic units on the Columbus campus," said Steven Neal, CFAES professor and associate dean for academic programs.

McClain, an agriscience education major from Wyandot County, Ohio, will be honored at an on-campus awards dinner on March 27 where all 25 distinguished CFAES seniors will be recognized.

The CFAES Distinguished Senior Award honors academic, disciplinary and professional excellence.

"One of the hallmarks of our College is an emphasis on student success, and it is heartwarming to see it exemplified through the accomplishments of our students," Neal said. "Recipients are our future innovators and leaders who have already made an impact within the academic environment at this university and beyond."

McClain got his start at the Ohio State ATI campus in Wooster before transferring to Columbus.

"The small engines course at ATI sparked my interest in getting involved in the agricultural systems management (ASM) program in Columbus, which is now my minor," he said. "My passion and skills for agricultural mechanics and technology led me to opportunities to impact the education of other Ohio State students, as well Ohio agriculture teachers.

"I served as an undergraduate teaching assistant for the ASM program where I helped with revising curriculum and instructional materials."

McClain worked on the centennial celebration for the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership. The project became part of his honors research and fostered a strong appreciation for the history of agricultural mechanics and technology in agricultural education, he said.

McClain also participated in a service learning project with a Knowledge is Power (KIPP) school in Columbus, Ohio and found it to be a life-altering experience.

"This program allowed me to engage in Ohio State's core values of diversity, inclusion, and integrity with young people who are challenged with today's societal dynamics," he said. "Helping youth achieve excellence was empowering for me as young educator."

Distinguished Senior Award



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CFAES

While working at KIPP, McCain received the Outstanding Middle School Volunteer award.

“I experienced personal and professional growth, so I share my story with other students and encourage them to get involved with similar opportunities during their time at OSU,” he said.

McClain also served as a CFAES Ambassador giving prospective students and families campus tours, answering questions, and showcasing the opportunities the college provides.

“As an agriculture teacher for the state of Ohio, I believe I can help meet the mission and goals of the land-grant university,” he said. “I want to help youth achieve their educational goals and most importantly, promote positive youth development.

“Because of the teachers who have impacted my life, I am a strong believer that I can impact the lives of future generations as an educator.”

After graduation, McClain hopes to teach high school agricultural technology and mechanic courses and advise an FFA program. His long-term goal is to pursue a master’s degree in agricultural education and/or special education with plans of eventually teaching and advising in an ASM higher education program. He also plans to stay actively involved with the family farm in Wyandot County.

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Electronic files of head shot for this individual award recipients may be secured by making an email request to Warren Flood at flood.13@osu.edu.