

Press Release

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Motter Named 2019 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Abigale (Abby) Motter of Mansfield, 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.

Motter, an agriscience education major, 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."

Motter has made an impact both in and out of the classroom by facilitating leadership conferences across the nation for FFA.

"OSU prepared me for a program I thought was out of reach with courses in educational psychology, methodology, and the opportunity to discover my facilitation style," she said.

Motter said she experienced, "a great life lesson," when worked at a North Texas Food Bank during Buck-I-Serv, Ohio State's alternative break program. For the first time, Motter said she was exposed to food insecurity, food deserts, and the importance of agricultural literacy.

"Also for the first time in my life, I was a minority, not only by appearance, but by experiences," she said. "OSU led me from a homogeneous, rural community to realizing the value of contrasting perspectives and encouraged me to be thoughtful about the role model I can be," she said.

Motter was a member of the 2018 Homecoming Court and has held leadership roles within Ohio Staters and the Agricultural Education Society. She also served as an Ohio Soybean Council Soy Ambassador and a CFAES Ambassador. As a CFAES Ambassador, she offered college tours, built valuable relationships, talked with prospective students and "calmed the fears of hundreds of future Buckeye families."

Education abroad trips provided Motter with some of her most valuable learning experiences.

Distinguished Senior Award



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

CFAES

“I had the opportunity to visit Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica, each time performing service-learning and practicing my Spanish minor,” she said.

She was also able to complete an honors research project from her Honduras experience.

“These experiences opened my perspective to global agriculture and the similarities in students across the globe,” Motter said. “As a result, I became inspired to bring an international outlook to my students so they are prepared to thrive in an increasingly global world.

“It also made me want to encourage my peers in rural communities to travel the world.”

After graduation, Motter plans to work as an agriscience educator and FFA adviser before pursuing a master’s degree in agricultural and extension education with a specialization in international development.

“I want to become a teacher educator and leadership trainer for the agricultural and youth development industry,” she said.

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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.