

Press Release

March 7, 2019

Taylor Named 2019 Distinguished Senior at The Ohio State University

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Ariel Taylor of Medina, 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.

Taylor, an animal sciences major from Medina 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."

Taylor's nominator, Mariette Benage, student success coordinator in the Department of Animal Sciences, wrote "Admitted to Ohio State as an Eminence Fellow, the expectations for Ariel were high and she's lived up to the hype. In her first year, she spearheaded the creation of Ohio State's first student-run food cooperative, Best Food Forward. This non-profit provides increased access to healthy, fresh produce while promoting local sustainability, which feeds directly into her passion for agriculture."

Taylor's efforts in creating, launching and coordinating the efforts of the Best Food Forward team resulted in her recognition as a Stamps Leadership Scholar, given to five Eminence students based on leadership qualities and dedication to service.

"Her passion for animal welfare has driven the experiences she's chosen while at Ohio State, and her two independent research projects through Ohio State's College of Veterinary Medicine demonstrate her forward thinking as an innovator, wanting to make an impact in the industry," Benage noted. "She connected with a nutritional immunologist to design and conduct a neonatal piglet intestinal health research project, which turned into her honors research thesis."

Taylor served as a two-time president of the Animal Science Community Alliance (ASCA), chaired the planning committee for the Department of Animal Sciences' largest event, the Winter Mixer, and took advantage of education abroad opportunities in New Zealand and Chile. She has been a teaching assistant and mentor to animal science students, served on the planning committee for the CFAES Back 2 School Bash, and was selected as one of 24 students to be part of SPHINX Senior Class Honorary.

Distinguished Senior Award



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

CFAES

As a departmental recruiter for the Department of Animal Sciences, Taylor provides tours to prospective students, leads hands-on events, and communicates with admitted students through emails, postcards, online chats, and phone calls. She also helped create a science club and interactive activities for Cristo Rey, a new Columbus high school for at-risk youth.

Taylor's passion lies within food supply medicine, safety, and security and many of her collegiate experiences have been within the overlapping fields of animal and human health.

After graduation, she will attend The Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine with the goal of becoming a swine veterinarian.

After a chance meeting with the CEO of Smithfield at a conference, she was invited to complete an internship with them in hog production. She made such an impression during her internship, that Smithfield has pursued her to be part of its team once she graduates from veterinary school.

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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.