

PRESS RELEASE

HICKMAN NAMED 2020 DISTINGUISHED SENIOR AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Caleb Hickman of Mount Vernon, Ohio, has been named a 2020 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, 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.

Hickman, an agriscience education major from Knox County, was nominated by college faculty and staff who felt that he personified the award’s attributes of 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.”

In nominating him for the award, CFAES faculty members noted Hickman’s involvement in 10 student organizations and his service on seven executive teams. He has conducted research, obtained an associate degree from The Ohio State University at Newark, and has two minors with his major.

“He has capitalized on college opportunities that will propel him in his future career,” said nominator M. Susie Whittington, professor and director of the Second-Year Transformational Experience Program in the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership. “He encourages others to rise above the challenges that the agricultural industry faces and promote diversity among traditional agricultural practices.”

Hickman forged friendships with students from diverse backgrounds as part of the Stadium Scholarship Program and encouraged men in the LGBTQ community to join FarmHouse ATZ Fraternity, a fraternity that strives to eliminate the stigma of white men in agriculture.

As a member of the Buckeye Library Leaders, Hickman tutored elementary, middle, and high school students around central Ohio. These experiences allowed him to work with inner-city

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youth and see firsthand how domestic abuse interferes with a child’s upbringing and their ability to focus.

Hickman has served as the CFAES senator as part of the Ohio State Undergraduate Student Government. He advocated for legislation that promoted diversity, helped make college more affordable for students, and gave a voice to sexual assault victims.

His academic honors included 11 scholarships, as well as the Bucket and Dipper Junior Class Honorary, and the Romophos Sophomore Class Honorary. He was also on the Dean’s List each semester.

Hickman plans to attend graduate school to earn a master’s degree in community and leadership development, and to conduct research that will aid rural youth. In addition, he hopes to pursue a doctorate in education.

“One day, I would like to return to Ohio State and become a college professor,” he said.

An awards dinner to recognize all 25 CFAES Distinguished Seniors has been canceled due to COVID-19.

“The safety of our community is our top priority,” Neal said. “We are deeply sorry the planned celebration will not occur. The commitment and dedication of these students to their undergraduate education will still be recognized with a special award package that will be mailed later this semester.”

In autumn 2019, there were 2,486 undergraduate students in CFAES pursuing 22 majors and 31 minors. Learn more about CFAES academic programs online by visiting <https://students.cfaes.ohio-state.edu/>.



CALEB M. HICKMAN

MOUNT VERNON, OH

AGRISCIENCE EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATION,
EDUCATION, AND LEADERSHIP

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

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