



Tennessee State University School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences

21st Century Agriculture

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SACS MEMBERS RECEIVE FFA HONORARY DEGREES



Dr. Chandra Reddy



Dr. John C. Ricketts



Michelle Page

NASHVILLE, TN – The Tennessee FFA Organization recently awarded Honorary State FFA Degrees to the Tennessee State University Dean of the School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences, a faculty member, and a graduate student for their service and commitment to the FFA Organization at the 2011 Tennessee FFA State Convention.

Dr. Chandra Reddy, Dr. John C. Ricketts, and Michelle Page received the degrees during the FFA's Third Convention Session held on March 28th at the Convention Center in Gatlinburg, TN.

Dr. Reddy, who serves as Dean of TSU's School of Agriculture and Consumer Sciences (SACS), also serves as Administrator of Extension. He has reinstated the Agricultural Education Program at TSU and supported its growth as well as hosted key activities such as FFA career development events.

Dr. John C. Ricketts, Extension Associate Professor of Agriculture and Extension Education, has served Tennessee FFA as a teacher, Career Development Event's Judge, an advocate, and an activities coordinator for agricultural sales, horticulture and State Stars. Dr. Ricketts recently returned to Tennessee after several years working with Agricultural Education in Florida and Georgia. He coordinates the undergraduate and graduate Agricultural Education Concentrations in the Department of Agricultural Sciences at TSU.

Michelle Page, a graduate student in Agricultural Sciences, is also a veteran teacher who has contributed to FFA by coordinating events as well as serving as a judge. "She is a leader among her teacher peers, and can be relied upon for whatever the organization has asked of her over the years," said Dr. Ricketts.

Each year the state association selects individuals who have made significant contributions to the FFA at a state or local level. The honorees are awarded a plaque and a medal and are honored at the state convention. The FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 506,199 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,429 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The FFA changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The organization operates under a Federal Charter granted by the 81st Congress of the United States, and is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.