

**2021 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE**

WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS



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...from La Crosse

WISCONSINAGED.ORG/WAAE



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SAUK CITY; WIS. – Ms. Kristina Puntney of Baraboo High School has been honored with the Teacher Turn the Key Award and Scholarship from the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE). Puntney was presented this honor at the WAAE Professional Development Conference held in La Crosse June 27-29, 2021.

The Teacher Turn the Key Award and Scholarship is given to an agricultural educator in their first years of teaching. Its goal is to allow early-career agricultural educators to attend the annual National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Convention, giving them an opportunity to become involved with their professional association on a national level. Huber believes “Students can learn anything with effort and the right strategies. Emma’s goal is to give students the tools they need in order to explore their interests within the agricultural industry.”

Kristina’s philosophy in education is simple. She says, “All students, always.” She does this by making sure students feel they matter and that they receive as many opportunities as possible to prepare them for life after high school by giving them as many hands-on experiences as possible.

Students' in Kristina's classes are given the opportunity to have a passion project. These projects allow students to dive deeper into subjects they are interested in, share their knowledge with the rest of the class and practice their real world skills which sets them up for future success.

Kristina has put in a lot of time and energy into forming community partnerships. She gets advice and feedback through the work of her Agricultural Advisory Committee where she uses those partnerships to help support many activities through her program. She works with over 20 local businesses, Culver's and Compeer Financial to name a few that help sponsor the Flapjacks for Farmers and Friends program and are also guest speakers in the classroom.

WAAE is the professional association for agricultural educators in Wisconsin. Members include 410 middle school, high school, technical college and university educators. The focus of the association is to provide professional development, legislative support and educational resources for teachers to enhance their local agriculture education programs.

For more information about your local agriculture education program and to find out how you can support agriculture in your community, please contact your local agriculture education instructor or visit www.waae.com.

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