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SAUK CITY; WIS. – This year the 2021 WAAE Outstanding Cooperation Award was presented to Realityworks. The award was presented at the 2021 WAAE Professional Development Conference held June 27-29, 2021 in La Crosse, WI.

The NAAE Outstanding Cooperation Citation is directed to a supporter who contributes to the overall success of NAAE. It recognizes organizations, agribusiness companies, and others who have given outstanding support to agricultural education. This year's recipient, Realityworks, has been supporting agriculture programs not just here in Wisconsin, but beyond.

It all began for Realityworks in 1993 when co-founders Rick and Mary Jurmain (Ger-main) viewed a television program that showed teens using eggs and flour sacks to simulate caring for an infant. They knew they could do better and created what is known now as Baby, the RealCare Baby infant simulator. Since then, the company has expanded to making products for other Career and Technical Education fields including Agriculture.

Realityworks provides comprehensive learning solutions that pair curriculum with hands-on learning aids, student activities and assessment tools to create innovative learning environments. These solutions are used in middle, secondary and post-secondary schools to engage students, teach needed skills and provide career exploration opportunities. For agricultural education, they create models, simulators, and curriculum to help enhance programs all over the country. A major focus of the resources they create is to develop equipment and tools that utilize student interactions to enhance learning. This company knows the great work

Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators are doing and partners with them for improvements to their products as well as curriculum development.

While we are proud to call this company Wisconsin Based, we know their engagement with agriculture education programs doesn't end at our border. Realityworks has frequently been a participant in both the Association of Career & Technical Education Trade Show, but also as a participant in the National Association of Agricultural Educators annual conference. This company is all about meeting our needs in the classroom and representatives can often be seen and heard visiting with teachers about "what's next."

Thinking outside of the box and creating experiences in the classroom for students who might not normally have the opportunity is something Realityworks thrives on. The best line from their website that describes how they operate says this: "We measure our impact by how many lives are changed in positive ways, and how profoundly they are changed, as a result of our efforts."

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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