

# **Students Attend the Global Youth Institute at the World Food Prize Event**

**By Natalie Risse, Chapter Reporter**

The World Food Prize event was held October 11 through October 14, and the Global Youth Institute was held in conjunction to the World Food Prize event on October 12 through October 15. The World Food Prize event is an extremely prestigious international conference held in Des Moines, Iowa every year. It was started by Dr. Norman Borlaug, the man that has saved more lives than any other person in the world through his work on the wheat plant leading him to being named the father of the Green Revolution. International leaders, researchers, scientists, and many other professionals all over the world involved in the fight against hunger and poverty travel to Des Moines to listen to educated and experienced speakers that are leaders in this fight. They discuss food security, education, women's rights, and personal stories from their country. This year, over 1500 people from more than 60 countries attended the event. In addition to the speakers, the actual World Food Prize is awarded to laureates that have gone above others in the fight against hunger. The World Food Prize is known as the Nobel Prize of agriculture. There is a ceremony held at the World Food Prize event to honor and award that year's laureates. This year, there were four people that received this award for their work and development of the sweet potato. They have engineered the sweet potato to grow in various conditions and have more nutrients.

In conjunction with the World Food Prize event, over 200 students from around the world participated in the Global Youth Institute. To be eligible to attend, the students each had to write a research paper about a hunger factor in a developing country. Then, at the state level, they presented their papers and only the best students were chosen to represent their state/county at the global level. At the Global Youth Institute, the students listened in on speakers at the World Food Prize event, interacted and networked with professionals from all over the world, and presented their papers to their small groups and a panel of experts. All of the students that

attended the Global Youth Institute now have the opportunity to apply for national and international eight week internships. Natalie Risse, from the Wapsie Valley FFA chapter, was one of the students chosen to represent Iowa at the Global Youth Institute. She is the third student from Wapsie Valley to have the honor of attending. She presented her paper on sustainable agriculture in Madagascar. "I really enjoyed participating in the Global Youth Institute," said Risse. "Hearing the success stories from the leaders of developing countries was really inspiring, and discussing food security with peers in our small groups was a lot of fun."

Alana Platte and Dylan Lampe, both former members of the Wapsie Valley FFA, have participated the previous two years, and both of them applied for the international internship and were selected. Platte traveled to Guatemala, and Lampe traveled to Ethiopia. Both Platte and Lampe came back to the Global Youth Institute this year to assist in running it and present on their experiences in their respective countries. By attending the state level institute, each student was awarded a \$500 scholarship to be used in the College of Agriculture at Iowa State, and by attending the Global Youth Institute, they earn another \$500 scholarship. The World Food Prize event and the Global Youth Institute are a great honor to participate in.