

Former Wapsie Valley FFA Presidents Receive Mark Pearson Scholarship

By: Natalie Risse, Chapter Reporter

Mark Pearson, creator and former host of Iowa Public Television's "Market to Market," was passionate about connecting with youth to encourage them to pursue a career in agriculture and develop new innovations within the industry. To honor his lasting memory and legacy, the family of Mark Pearson created a scholarship for FFA chapter presidents in the state of Iowa. The scholarship is two years of free tuition at the Des Moines Area Community College, (DMACC). To qualify, candidates must have been their FFA chapter president for their junior and/or their senior year(s). The recipients of this scholarship will be enrolled in a weekly class that is designed as a leadership class to help students build connections within the agriculture workforce.

The Wapsie Valley FFA Chapter was fortunate to have two former chapter presidents receive this scholarship. 2014-2015 president, Alana Platte, and 2015-2016 president, Cassidy Kuhlmann were honored to be recipients. Platte stated, "I am very grateful to have received the Mark Pearson FFA Scholarship. Financial help is making it possible for me to attend college and be on track to reach my goal of becoming an agricultural missions worker!" In addition, Kuhlmann was selected as one of two recipients to travel to the Iowa state capitol to represent all of those that received the scholarship. There, she met with the family of Pearson, Governor Terry Brandstad, and the donors of this scholarship. From the experience, Kuhlmann said, "I am just completely honored and humbled by this opportunity. I know Mark Pearson was always known for the Market to Market show, but now I believe Pearson will be known for giving youth an opportunity to expand and enrich their leadership skills, as well as gain connections in the agriculture industry. My thanks goes out to the Pearson Family and the donors and contributors."

Congratulations to Wapsie Valley FFA's scholarship recipients, and thank you to the family of Mark Pearson!

Captions: (Pictures??)