



NOVEMBER 10, 2023 EDITION

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the Aggie Life



SC Governor's School
for Agriculture
AT JOHN DE LA HOWE

EXCELLENT

**22-23 SC SCHOOL
REPORT CARD RATING**



IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE



Graduates from the first two classes to finish the new Governor's School for Agriculture mission gathered for a photo opportunity in front of the President's House.

AGGIES REUNITED: IT FEELS SO GOOD

The annual Howe-lloween not only saw a large gathering of children and their families for an afternoon of family fun. The day began with a reunion of recent alumni for a picnic on the grounds.

Members of the first two graduating classes of Aggies

here at the Governor's School for Agriculture were welcomed back to campus by Dr. Tim Keown and JDLH staff and treated to steak, baked potatoes and banana pudding served in front of the President's House. It was a chance to laugh, share memories and

reconnect on college, work and other life events since walking across the stage.

Dr. Keown and Mr. Greg Thompson both took time to pay tribute to the returning Aggies and to encourage them to revisit their old sumping grounds more often.



It was a beautiful afternoon for a picnic as numerous alumni returned to campus for a quick reunion.

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JDLH hosts emotional reunion of alumni during October festival



Most Excellent Success

School Report Card Returns With One Of State's Highest Scores

STAFF REPORT

In only its third full year in operation, the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe earned an "Excellent" rating in the latest round of School Report Cards released Tuesday by the South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee.

The school collected a score of 98 out of a possible 100 points. The Report Cards highlight student performance information and other elements of school quality and effectiveness for the 2022-2023 school year.

"All of the praise and honor goes to our amazing students, parents, faculty, staff, Board of Trustees, Foundation Board, Alumni Board, Members of the SC General Assembly, and last but not least, Principal Greg Thompson," said Dr. Timothy Keown, president of the S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture. "Without each of those groups working collaboratively, a school rating of 98 would not have been possible in only three short years within our new mission. This rating is proof of the quality of education our students are receiving from our ultra-talented faculty. We have had many reasons to celebrate over the last few years, but this is the pinnacle of success for our school thus far!"

According to the State Report Card, 95.8 percent of graduates at the S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture completed their secondary educational careers "college or career ready." In

OVERALL GRADE: 98 OUT OF 100

CAREER/COLLEGE READINESS



Excellent
23.96/25
Points earned

GRADUATION RATE



Excellent
25.00/25
Points earned

SCHOOL CLIMATE



Excellent
3.89/5
Points earned

addition, the school earned an "Excellent" rating for school climate, which gauges teacher and student perceptions of instructional focus, safety and working conditions at the school campus. The school's 100 percent graduation rate also helped earn the school an "Excellent" rating.

Statewide, 22.5 percent of schools received an overall rating "Excellent," the highest rating in the state's education accountability system. That represents an almost two percent increase from the previous year.

The State Report Cards were released during an event at Kelly Edwards Elementary School in Williston, located in Barnwell County.

"One of the greatest joys of this job is visiting schools like Kelly Edwards Elementary, to see firsthand how strong principal leadership – paired with high-quality curriculum and professional development for teachers – is building a culture of academic achievement and

proving that all students can attain excellence," said State Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver. "The faculty, staff, and students at Kelly Edwards are living proof of the progress that is possible with a clear vision and alignment of resources around what matters most: student success."

Looking ahead to the future, Superintendent Weaver said "we must redouble our efforts to support early literacy using the Science of Reading, a strategy that we already see showing strong promise in SC's ELA scores. We must also focus the same attention on boosting effective math materials and instruction. Our students will never get a second chance at their education, and our urgent priority must be equipping them with the foundational skills they need for success in school and life."

The full report cards for all schools in South Carolina are available for closer inspection online at www.screportcards.com.



Members of our school's new Agriculture Communications team gather at Lucas Oil Stadium to celebrate their success in this new pilot program for South Carolina.

THE GREAT COMMUNICATORS

Aggie Orator, AgComm Team Break Ground At Nationals

STAFF REPORT

A groundbreaking group of storytellers added to the ever-evolving story of the S.C. Governor's School for Agriculture recently at the 96th annual National FFA Convention in Indianapolis.

Lyle Fulmer, a senior here at JDLH, advanced to the semifinals of the Prepared Public Speaking competition. He finished among the top orators in the nation with a presentation called "Every Drop Counts," an examination of the ongoing water crisis affecting agriculture in South Carolina and across America.

By finishing in the top 16, Lyle distinguished himself with an honor attained by only one in 20,000 FFA participants.



Lyle Fulmer reached the semifinals at Nationals.

Meanwhile, our school's new Agriculture Communications Team also piloted a new CDE for the entire state of South Carolina and received a special dispensation

from the State FFA Organization to represent the state in national competition. J.C. Chandler, Allie Gentle Gray Gardner, and J.D. Miller made up the team.

These students completed a 36-page media plan exploring the life impacts of Dr. John De La Howe, our school's namesake. The presentation was entitled, "The Man Whose Face Was Never But Whose Impact Is Still Changing The Future." Along with crafting the media plan, students competed in multiple practicums, including Journalistic Writing, Opinion Writing, Video Production, and Website Production. All students competed in this virtual component at the beginning of October.

In Indianapolis, the students



The Environmental and Natural Resources Team accept their Top 30 recognition at the National FFA Convention.



The Forestry Team also earned Top 30 honors at the National FFA Convention, while Emily Rodman earned Gold level individual honors.

presented their media plan to a panel of four judges. Though starting almost four months after every other state and competing in a CDE that had not been attempted in South Carolina, the Governor's School for Agriculture's team received Bronze at the National FFA Convention. J.C. and Gray earned Silver individual honors.

"I have never been more humbled by a captivating group of individuals," said Miss Kaitlyn Christenbury, the team's FFA advisor. "There are very few young people like them who would stay late after school, practicing their parts of writing page after page of information about Dr. John De La



Howe. They are genuinely some of the most hardworking individuals, and I can't wait to see what this group of seniors accomplishes after graduation."

The Agricultural Communications Team were not the only Aggies to excel on the national stage in Indianapolis.

Our school's Forestry Team – consisting of Emily Rodman, Hannah Mosley, Ella Taylor, and Trip Steigerwald – placed 30th out of 45 teams competing at the National FFA Convention. Emily Rodman earned a Gold level individual, placing her in the top 50 individuals out of more than 400 participants.

Our Environmental and Natural Resources Team also qualified at the State Convention in June to compete on the national level. The team – made up of Katie Ostergaard, Sam Bennett, Mya Kowalke, and Sierra Tinsley – placed 30th out of 45 teams. Both Katie and Sam earned a Silver level individual, placing them in the top 100 of participants in the contest.

"All of these students did a fantastic job representing our school and state in their contest," said Mr. Hunter Morton, FFA Advisor. "There is a lot of hard work and dedication put into being able to compete nationally, and we are so proud of all of our students."



Elizabeth Viseth, Sara Corn and Lyle Fulmer join RFD-TV anchorwoman Janet Adkison on the set at Lucas Oil Stadium during the National FFA Convention.

TAKING CENTER STAGE

Aggies Work As Part Of National Television Crew At Convention

STAFF REPORT

During the recent National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, three members of the Governor's School for Agriculture student media team worked behind the scenes – and occasionally in front of the camera – on RFD-TV's nationwide television coverage of the four-day event.

Lyle Fulmer, Elizabeth Viseth and Sara Corn were selected by RFD-TV to become part of their on-location production team at Lucas Oil Stadium and the Indiana Convention Center. The intern candidates had to submit resumes and audition videos in early October, explaining why they wanted to serve as part of the RFD-



TV coverage.

Beginning on Wednesday, Nov. 1, Sara and Elizabeth worked alongside on-site producer Charlsie McKay (who hosts the weekly "FFA Today" series on RFD-TV) and anchor Janet Adkison on a high-tech stage built on the arena floor at Lucas Oil Stadium. The interns' initial duties were escorting special guest interview subjects to the set and timing interview segments just off-camera.

Lyle joined the production on Thursday because he also was competing in the Prepared Public Speaking competition at

the National FFA Convention. He advanced to the semifinals, finishing among the Top 16 speakers, before segueing to the RFD-TV production efforts. He was immediately enlisted to conduct a series of on-air interviews with fellow FFA members from around the nation.

In all, five interview segments featuring Lyle's natural interview skills were broadcast during the RFD-TV convention coverage. He interviewed fellow students in the concourse at Lucas Oil Stadium and asked them (among other questions) their favorite parts of the convention experience, what they have learned there and then invited them to give "shouts-out" to friends and family back



home. On the final day of the convention, Ms. McKay and Ms. Adkison invited Lyle backstage to be part of the first post-convention interviews with the new National FFA Organization student officers.

Elizabeth participated in an interview with the director of the National FFA Chorus at the nearby ArtsGarden in downtown Indianapolis and interviewed fellow students at the Expo. All three students filmed smartphone video and took still photographs of the convention happenings that were shared on the RFD-TV social media platform.

With their fellow Aggies returning to campus by bus early Saturday morning, the three RFD-TV interns opted to stay behind in Indianapolis and work as production assistants and on-air talent until the final gavel of the convention. In fact, Lyle, Elizabeth and Sara were among the last FFA students to leave Lucas Oil Stadium on that Saturday before they flew home from Indianapolis to Charlotte (chaperoned by student media team advisor Tony Baughman) to be reunited with their families.

These students' outstanding efforts have earned Lyle, Elizabeth and Sara an invitation to continue producing segments that will air on "FFA Today" in the coming months. Meanwhile, their work at the National FFA Convention lives on in archived videos posted on the RFD-TV website, www.rfdtv.com



It's Fair Game!

State Fair Yields A Full Day Of Fun And Honors For Visiting Aggies

The South Carolina State Fair is a fun time always for visiting Aggies who join hundreds from across the Palmetto State for the annual FFA Day at the Fair.

This year, students from the Governor's School for Agriculture brought back more than a few souvenirs and memories from the fairgrounds. State Fair yielded a slew of Aggie award-winners.

Lyle Fulmer spent the week at the State Fair as one of four winners of the South Carolina Association of State Fairs Scholarship winners. He was presented the award along with the other winners during the FFA Day ceremonies at the fairgrounds show arena.

J.C. Chandler won the \$2,500 South Carolina Farm Bureau Beef Scholarship.

Leona Weber had an amazing week on horseback at the State



Fair. She won Grand Champion in her age division at the horse show and was awarded the President's Choice 2023 buckle. Leona also finished with top honors in poles and barrels and finished second in the arena race. She earned 4th place in ranch ground handling, 5th place in ranch riding and 4th place in ranch pleasure.

Sierra Tinsley won the 2023 SC Farm Bureau State Fair Dairy Scholarship and competed in several categories, claiming a wide assortment of honors: (a) Jersey

Spring Heifer Calf – 2nd place in open show, 1st place in junior show, Grand Champion in junior show; (b) Holstein Winter Heifer Calf – 1st place in both open and junior show, honorable mention in open show, Grand Champion in junior show; (c) Senior Two-Year-Old – 1st place in both open and junior show, Grand Champion in both open and junior show; (d) Brown Swiss Spring Heifer Calf – 1st place in both open and junior show, Grand Champion in both open and junior show; (e) Winter Yearling Heifer – 2nd place in open show, 1st place in junior show; (f) Senior Two-Year-Old Cow – 1st place in both open and junior, Grand Champion in both open and junior; and (g) Four-Year-Old Cow – 1st place in both open and junior, Reserve champion in both open and junior, 1st place in best three females with



A large contingent of Aggies traveled to Columbia in mid-October to take part in the annual FFA Day at the South Carolina State Fairgrounds.



J.C. Chandler

my brown Swiss, Reserve Supreme Champion.

In the State Fair beef show, J.C. Chandler picked up several division winners; Ross Arthur was Reserve Champion Sim in Angus



Leona Weber

Open and Reserve Champion Sim in Angus Junior, and five division winners; Ty Morton was Reserve Champion Zebu Junior and two division winners; Austin Landreth was one division winner; Kinley



Sierra Tinsley

Metz was Medium Weight Steer Division Winner; and Lily Fox picked up several class winners.

The Tractor Safety and Operation CDE team finished in 2nd place at the State Fair.





Henry Wynn, who performed at the Howe-lloween Festival with his son Henry Jr. as the Henrys, plays a private concert for an appreciative young fan between sets.

Pickin' & Pumpkins

Howe-lloween Festival Conjures Up Full Afternoon Of Family Fun

