



NEWS RELEASE

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Levy Randolph Named 2009-2010 National FFA President

INDIANAPOLIS – When Levy Randolph moved to California after being stationed with his family in Japan for 10 years, he had never heard of FFA or agricultural education. But once he discovered the agriculture department at his high school and all of the opportunities it provided, he enthusiastically dove in and hasn't looked back. For the next year, the Hemet High School FFA Chapter member from Hemet, Calif., will motivate and inspire more than 500,000 fellow FFA members as the 2009-2010 National FFA President. He was elected to that office today at the 82nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. He was among six individuals selected from a field of 39 to hold a national office. He is the son of Levy and Judy, and his FFA advisors are Jody Baker and Rafael Mosqueda.

Fulfilling his position will require traveling more than 100,000 miles; meeting top leaders in business, government and education; visiting approximately 40 states; and participating in an international experience tour to Japan. His responsibilities will include providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the organization and promoting agricultural literacy.

The national FFA officer selection process is intense and represents an assessment of years of academic and extracurricular accomplishments made by each student running for office. Nominees must first qualify on the state level to represent their particular state FFA associations. They then submit a thorough application, detailing their accomplishments and contributions to the community, along with an essay explaining their desire to be elected to national office. Once at the convention, candidates participate in five rounds of interviews, take an in-depth written test on the organization and agricultural education topics and complete two writing exercises.

The FFA Mission: FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

A panel of nine state FFA officers comprises the nominating committee that proposes the slate of six officers for approval by the convention delegates.

Randolph attends Fresno State University in Fresno, Calif., with a major in agriculture business. While in high school, he was a member of the basketball and football teams, the school's dance team, United Cultures Club, Multi-Cultural College Graduates Club and Associated Student Body. In 2008, just after graduation, Randolph was elected the California FFA Association's state sentinel.

As a member of FFA, Randolph has had a variety of supervised agricultural experience (SAE) programs. He has raised swine, poultry and beef, and he also managed his school's garden and worked at the San Diego County Agri-Fair building. This diversity in his projects taught him the basics of hard work, responsibility and the value of the industry of agriculture. Randolph has also won many public speaking contests at the chapter, state and regional levels.

"FFA gives you more than an education," said Randolph. "It gives you the tools you need to succeed in life, including confidence, communication, ethics and hands-on learning experience that is second to none."

The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 506,199 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,429 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for **premier leadership, personal growth and career success** through agricultural education. The National FFA Organization operates under a Federal Charter granted by the 81st Congress of the United States, and is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs. Visit www.ffa.org for more information.

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