



Valerie Earley

National FFA Central Region Vice President

Age: 20

Birthdate: April 14, 1996

Hometown and State: Wykoff, Minn.

Parents: Rachel and James Earley

Siblings: Lisa, Erica

FFA Stats

Chapter: Spring Valley-Wykoff FFA

Enterprise: Agricultural Education, Beef Placement

State Office: 2014-15 Minnesota State FFA Secretary

College Stats

Year: Graduating December 2016

Major: Agricultural Communications and Marketing

School: University of Minnesota

College Activities: Beta of Clovia Sorority, Agricultural Education Club, Gopher Dairy Club

Future Career Goal: To tell the story of agriculture to consumers through a career in agricultural communications.

As an FFA member, Valerie Earley explored opportunities using the tools that FFA offered her, and now she feels it is time for her to encourage others to explore the opportunities that are available to them.

"I want to share my story and give the knowledge and tools needed to empower members to do the same," Earley says. "I want to ensure that agricultural education is seen as an essential component of a student's education and that the industry of agriculture is recognized as an integral part of our lives that everyone should understand, support and contribute to."

Earley was elected to the 2016-17 National FFA Officer Team as central region vice president at the 89th National FFA Convention & Expo.

An agricultural communications major at the University of Minnesota, Earley was a member of the Gopher Dairy Club and a communications intern with the Minnesota Pork Board and Minnesota Pork Producers.

Within FFA, she served as Minnesota State FFA Secretary, Minnesota FFA Region VIII President and student advisor for Spring Valley-Wykoff FFA. In high school, she also served as vice president for Kingsland National Honor Society and played both the tuba and flute in the Kingsland High School Concert and Pep Band.

Her supervised agricultural experience in agricultural education allowed her to organize the first Rochester Urban Agriculture in the Classroom program for the Spring Valley-Wykoff FFA Chapter and six surrounding chapters. Through this program, more than 700 students learned about the full perspective of agriculture from farm to fork.

Upon graduation from college, Earley plans to use her skills to provide young people with opportunities to gain agricultural knowledge, grow and become an asset to the future of agriculture and to their communities.

"Through my career, I hope to develop messaging to help engage consumers in conversations about food and share the story of United States farmers," she says.