

Dear State Delegation Committee,

*“FFA is an organization where students have the chance to achieve whatever they set their minds to. FFA allows us to experience the same things. We get up before the sunrise to make sure our projects are fed, watered, and fertilized. We all shed blood, tears, and sweat just to make sure our projects are the best they can be. We pace back and forth reciting our speeches, double checking they are accurate, and ponder what questions the judges could possibly have regarding our topic of choice. We strive to make the best of every situation and we all have a mutual respect for those National Blue and Corn Gold corduroy jackets we wear with pride. FFA is not just an extracurricular activity to me, it is a way of life, and that is why I love FFA.”*

My name is Darshae Hunter a senior at Pilot Rock High School. My involvement in FFA started my freshman year. Growing up I wouldn't speak unless spoken to, and I was afraid to get out in the open and show people my true self. My advisor Mr. Larry Newman handed me a paper that was five paragraphs long and told me to memorize it. This five paragraph statement is famously known as the FFA creed. When I found out I was going to districts for the FFA Creed, I had no idea this one event would be the foundation for the rest of my life.

The FFA Creed allowed me to demonstrate and work on my public speaking skills. After presenting at the district level I was awarded a red banner and went on to the sectional level. Placing third at the sectional level I accepted my banner and went home. This was an eye opener to me, and caused me to realize that public speaking was something enjoyable to me. Not only did the FFA Creed allow me to see the potential I possessed and give me the courage and charisma to speak before a large group of people, it also caused me to realize that with hard work and dedication I can achieve anything.

I have attended every State Convention since 2008. I absolutely adore what the state officers do for all the chapters in the state of Oregon. They travel throughout the state to educate fellow chapters about leadership, upcoming events, ways to make our chapter stronger and etc. It was my junior year in high school that I decided I wanted to serve as an Oregon FFA State Officer. I would talk during pep assemblies, class meetings, and for FFA public speaking events to polish my verbal communication skills. I asked the executive Associated Student Body of our school to ask me interview questions at random. The one question that stuck with me the most was *“Darshae, why do you like FFA?”* After considering this question overnight, the personal statement above summed up my feelings about FFA.

It is true. I love everything that FFA stands for. I enjoy meeting new people, and competing in FFA events even if that means leaving at 6:00 in the morning to make sure that our chapter gets there on time. FFA has always been something enjoyable to me, and something that I have intentions of being involved with for the rest of my life through Colligate FFA or becoming a sponsor when I am older. I believe I have the compassion, aspiration, and devotion that the organization is looking for. I have an unsurpassed love for speaking, and educating people about our organization.

Am I qualified to be a state officer? Maybe not, but my heart, desire and dedication to FFA makes me a wonderful candidate. Please find me worthy of consideration. I will give back more than the mountain the FFA has given me, however difficult that might be.

“The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do.” -Walter Bagehot

Sincerely,