

February 2nd, 2017



Bend FFA
Mountain View High School
2755 NE 27th St.
Bend, OR 97701



Katie Duggan
Bend FFA Secretary
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Dear Oregon FFA,

My favorite colors are green, blue and purple. Since the age of five, I've known this, pleading with my parents to paint my room at least one of these colors. Lavender to start, then lime green, then a midnight blue. However, this past summer, as I was about to enter my Senior year of High School, and fourth year of FFA, it changed. I chose a color named, "Silver Drop". It's a light, uplifting, silvery-gray color that adds a sense of brightness to the room.

I see living spaces as a reflection of the person inhabiting the space. I always thought that my favorite colors would reflect who I was, and what I felt, but it wasn't the case. I was taking on the emotions of the colors, instead. Repainting my room gave an instant change in the person who was living there, myself. This doesn't mean that I still don't love those colors. They always have been, and always will be a part of my life, but in smaller doses. A friend gave me a tapestry for my Birthday in 2015. I was immediately drawn to the intricate pattern. Blues and greens weaved seamlessly, in paisley patterns and leaves. I hung it up on an empty wall, and a missing piece fell into place. My room looked complete. I see this missing piece in my FFA career, too.

Freshman year, I jumped right in. Not having an Agricultural background, everything was difficult at first, but I didn't let it stop me. I competed in everything I could, and it paid off greatly. But, Sophomore year was different. I felt out of place, like something was missing from my experience. Chapter events were always fun for me, and I competed consistently in district events, but I wanted to belong to something greater than myself. I wanted more opportunities to connect with others and accomplish goals together. I became a District Officer in 2016, helping to fulfill this need to do more. But, it wasn't until I attended the Washington Leadership Conference in 2016 that my aspirations started to come to fruition. After talking to the facilitators, they assured me that my uncomfot where I was at the time was nothing but a calling to do more, which brings me to right here, right now.

Oregon FFA, I've never seen an organization accomplish so much. We're all learning what it takes to leave the four walls of a school, and be on our own. With the help of advisors and mentors, we are becoming the future of Agriculture and America. Though the thought of graduating excites me, I know that my work here isn't done. It was Sandra Day O'Connor who said that, "***We don't accomplish anything alone. Whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads from one to another that creates something.***" I believe that we are a tapestry, the most beautiful one that I have ever seen. Each member, one thread. We weave into an incredible artwork, and I'd love to hang it on my wall if I had the space. Unfortunately, I don't, so I choose to experience this masterpiece in person. It is with incredible honor that I announce my candidacy for the 2017-2018 Oregon FFA State Officer Team. I already know that this opportunity of a lifetime would be a privilege for me to truly become your servant leader. I look forward to meeting you all at this year's State Convention, at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds in Redmond. There, the artwork will truly come to life and ***Transform***.

Yours Truly,

Katie Duggan

