



# Hermiston FFA Chapter

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## **Isel Tejada Urenda**

Hermiston FFA Vice President

Blue Mountain District Secretary



It was a dark Saturday morning. I hitched up the old rickety trailer to my trusty Chevy, Ole' Red. My mom and I packed up for what was bound to be a girl's show weekend. We were singing along to some country tunes when the battery light starts warning me that trusty Red was not feeling so trusty. Ignoring the light, we proceeded until Red's last breath.

Thirty minutes from our destination, we found ourselves stranded on the side of the road. In a desperate attempt for help, I pulled out my livestock judging notebook and wrote in big letters "PLEASE STOP." Standing on the side of the road, waving in a crazy panic, only two cars passed before a little blue Honda graciously pulled over. An interesting fellow arose with his brown cowboy hat, sunglasses, t-shirt and burly beard willing to charge my battery. In the time we waited, he noticed my district officer jacket and asked me where I was from. In those moments, we shared conversation about our love for the FFA organization. Mike shared with me that he was now an FFA alumni member from within my district, and his advisor from many years ago was related to my very own. When Ole' Red got back on her feet, Mike followed us to our destination. After work, he even came back with a new alternator and installed it for us, free of charge. My mom and I could not believe Mike's generosity.

That night, we checked into our hotel and all that I could think about is how small this world is and how far and wide our organization stretches. The moment you get your name embroidered in corn gold thread and you zip up the national blue corduroy for the first time, you enlist in the forever blue. This is an all access pass to unforgettable experiences, meeting all walks of life, and agriculture galore. Mike is an embodiment of what this organization stands for. It was his selflessness, leadership, and endless determination that helped two strangers fulfill their agriculture endeavors.

Oregon FFA, let me be your Mike. Let me be the one who serves you with the act of selfless servant leadership. It is with an undying commitment, drive and whole-hearted love for the FFA that I announce my candidacy for the 2019-2020 Oregon FFA State Officer Team. Within the last four years in FFA, I have had the privilege to experience the family aspect of this association. I would like to be a part of your irreplaceable FFAMILY.

With much devotion,

Isel Tejada Urenda

"... the best leaders- they serve those they lead."- Tony Hsieh