

My name is Joenelle Futrell and I have been involved in some way with FFA for over 15 years. FFA has quite literally changed my life, and I know that HB 2444 funding during 2019 changed the lives of many students by providing them access to opportunities for growth during a pandemic. With these dollars, Oregon FFA was able to virtually engage thousands of FFA members through 29 virtual CDEs that allowed students to compete with their career-based knowledge as well as virtual camps reaching student leaders and equipping them with skills around personal development, team dynamics, and chapter improvement. This year, no events, including Oregon District Officer Training and Legislative Conference were cancelled by ORFFA, only transferred to an alternative virtual delivery method. Additionally, new resources and events were added including video resources like SAE Highlights, Leadership Minutes, CDE Spotlights, ORFFA Greenhand videos, and Virtual Tips and Tricks and state officer hangouts. Events like Leadership Tour, where state officers enter into every ag education classroom over 57 days, still occurred albeit virtually, and our annual State FFA Convention reached more students than ever before with a virtual streaming platform and supporting resources to help integrate virtual workshops, panels, and experiences into the classroom.

Development of the Oregon FFA Leadership Continuum as supported by HB2444 will also bring expanded and elevated leadership training to members across the state, and increase access of training and development by focusing on local experiences and removing barriers. Staff are working to create 4 in-person experiences and resources including bell-ringers, chapter officer training in a box, locally delivered experiences, student-led workshops, and reflection strategies that will bring leadership to students.

Please continue to support funding Oregon FFA through HB 2444 funding. It makes a difference in over 11,000 students lives across Oregon through premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.