

March 8, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Brandy VanDeWalle for the NACAA Excellence in 4-H Programming Award. I have had the pleasure of working directly with Brandy for seven years in Nebraska Extension as well as, serving as her primary supervisor for the past year.

Brandy continues to be a well-respected colleague within the Nebraska Extension system. She is highly motivated and works to achieve great depth in your programming efforts. With a background in Agronomy, Brandy has engaged youth in crops education for the past several years through the Youth Crops Scouting Competition and the Innovative Youth Corn Challenge. Brandy performs at a high level and works hard to achieve her goals. As a professional, she is dedicated to Extension Excellence and always willing to mentor other colleagues for the benefit of the organization.

During school shutdowns due to COVID-19, Brandy and a team of Nebraska Extension professionals created NebrASKa Scientist Field Trips designed to target high school students across all 77,220 square miles of the state. As the year continued, science and agricultural education classes around Nebraska have been the targeted audience. Through the use of social media, her team intended to capture the attention of 107,000 high school youth not attending face-to-face school, home schooled youth, as well as teachers that may see it through the expansive Nebraska 4-H pages and sites. Between March and December of 2020, her team hosted 17 Virtual Field Trips. During that time, the tours have had 536 live youth viewers, 153 adult live viewers, and 61 unspecified live viewers for a total of 750 live viewers.

Brandy is a worthy candidate for NACAA Excellence in 4-H Programming Award. Programs like the NebrASKa Scientist Field Trips are certainly what Brandy is known for in Nebraska Extension. She has successfully carved out a niche for herself in this area and her passion for agronomy, agriculture and youth development is undeniable. I would therefore recommend Brandy VanDeWalle for this award.

If I can be of any further assistance, or provide you with any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Megan Burda'.

Megan Burda
Engagement Zone Coordinator