



## Michigan FFA Foundation refresh leads to seeking Executive Director

By Michigan FFA Foundation  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lansing, MI** – The Michigan FFA Foundation (Foundation) was initially founded in 1984 at Michigan State University (MSU) to be a fund-generating source for FFA and originally operated without an executive director. There has been cooperation with both Michigan Farm Bureau and Michigan State University throughout the years to oversee fund raising, management, and other Foundation activities. Since 2006, the Foundation has called MSU home.

From a small operating fund to over seven million dollars in assets (in combined annual and endowed funds) and raising more than \$400,000 annually today, the Foundation makes an important impact in funding FFA and agricultural and natural resources education. Supporting a strong base that is built through FFA and agricultural education is critical, as the food and agriculture industry contributes over \$104 billion annually to the state's economy.

The longstanding partnership of the Foundation and MSU has been greatly appreciated. While continually looking toward development into the future, the Foundation Board made the determination to undergo a transitional refresh. Effective March 2023, the Foundation established itself as a legal entity in the state of Michigan and is currently finalizing 501(c)3 status with the IRS. The Foundation and MSU will maintain their ongoing partnership through coordinated fundraising and endowment fund management.

“The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources provides a pipeline into agricultural careers for Michigan's FFA youth, and we're proud to claim thousands of former FFA members as our alumni. We will continue to participate in close, collaborative relationships with FFA leadership and the Michigan FFA Foundation in its refreshed form,” said [Dr. Kelly Millenbah](#), Ph.D., dean of MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

The creation of this new Foundation entity will allow for the hiring of a new Executive Director with a passion for FFA and the agriculture industry in Michigan. This will also drive better opportunities for industry and individual gift giving partnerships, resulting in stronger funding efforts to fulfill the mission of the organization. The purpose of the Foundation remains to impact youth leadership development in Michigan as it relates to FFA and agriscience education initiatives, supporting leadership development, career success and self-esteem, leading to a lifetime of personal success for students across the state.

The Michigan FFA Foundation has a volunteer Board of Directors dedicated to the mission and goals of the organization. Key leadership includes Chairperson, Charles Scovill ([Syngenta](#)), Treasurer Brad Morrill ([Crystal Flash](#)) and Secretary Erin Koglin ([Michigan Agricultural Commodities](#)). The organization is now seeking to hire an Executive Director to lead the organization, including directing annual giving and coordinating donor recognition. The ideal candidate will be committed to, and passionate about, Michigan FFA and agriscience education. *To learn more about the role and apply, e-mail [foundation@michiganffa.org](mailto:foundation@michiganffa.org)*

“As a former FFA member myself, I owe my personal success to the leadership skills learned, and friends made, through this organization. This is why I personally donate to the Foundation, along with giving my time as a Board member,” Chairman Scovill stated. “I am excited to see the Foundation undergo this refresh and believe selecting a new Executive Director with a focus on, and true passion for, FFA and our ag industry will be key to future success.”

### **About Michigan FFA Foundation**

The Michigan FFA Foundation is an organization in the state of Michigan working toward 501(c)3 status with the IRS. The fundraising organization exists to support Michigan FFA and agriscience education, with a mission *to impact youth leadership development in Michigan as it relates to FFA and agriscience education initiatives. Supporting leadership development, career success and self-esteem, leading to a lifetime of personal success for students across the state.*

### **Contact**

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