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SAUK CITY; WIS. – Joelle Liddane of Holmen High School, has been honored with the Teacher Turn the Key Award and Scholarship from the Wisconsin Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE). Liddane was presented this award at the 2023 Professional Development Conference held June 25-29, 2023 in downtown Oshkosh at the Best Western Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center.

The Teacher Turn the Key Award and Scholarship is given to an agricultural educator in their first years of teaching. Its goal is to allow early-career agricultural educators to attend the annual National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Convention, giving them an opportunity to become involved with their professional association on a national level.

Joelle's teaching philosophy is focused on the holistic student. She says, "studies show students are more suited to perform at their full capacity if their non-educational needs are met first... whether that means providing a peanut butter and jelly sandwich... or cheering them on in their other interests, I always put the students first while holding high expectations for rigor and academic discovery." The Holmen AgriScience Department offers 13 courses in Plant Science, Animal Science, Natural Resources, Leadership, and Power Structure and Technical systems. Six of the thirteen courses are offered for Science Elective, and three are transcribed through Western Technical College.

Other notable achievements Joelle has implemented include an Advisory Board that has representatives for all of the AFNR Pathways, multiple school-based enterprise projects for students to work in, and an active media and social media presence.

*WAAE is the professional association for agricultural educators in Wisconsin. Members include 410 middle school, high school, technical college and university educators. The focus of the association is to provide professional development, legislative support and educational resources for teachers to enhance their local agriculture education programs.*

*For more information about your local agriculture education program and to find out how you can support agriculture in your community, please contact your local agriculture education instructor or visit [www.waae.com](http://www.waae.com).*

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