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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**UNL CASNR COLLEGE RELATIONS DIRECTOR SUE ELLEN PEGG
RECEIVES NEBRASKA AG YOUTH COUNCIL'S HIGHEST HONOR, SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED TO YOUTH**

LINCOLN – Sue Ellen Pegg, College Relations Director for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was recently selected by Nebraska Agricultural Youth Council (NAYC) members to receive the Council's highest honor, the Nebraska Agricultural Youth Institute's (NAYI) Award of Merit. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) oversees NAYC and NAYI.

“As College Relations Director for CASNR, Sue Ellen manages recruiting and outreach to prospective students in Nebraska, the U.S. and around the world,” said NAYC Advisor Christin Kamm. “She spends countless hours communicating with students, parents, teachers, faculty and staff to help students find their way to Nebraska agriculture, and we are forever grateful.”

Pegg has served as the College Relations Director for CASNR at UNL since 2012. She works with organizations such as NAYI, 4-H, and FFA to help youth explore careers and education pathways in the agriculture industry.

Pegg was presented with the Award of Merit at NAYI's annual State Dinner on July 14 at the AKRS Champions Club in Lincoln. NAYI is a week-long event of activities for high school juniors and seniors interested in agriculture, and includes motivational speakers, ag education, networking with peers and industry leaders, leadership experience and information on ag careers. Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, NAYI is the longest running program of its kind in the nation.

Pegg plays an instrumental role in helping NAYI to be successful each year. She assists with coordinating all the room arrangements on UNL's East Campus and is a huge supporter of the Institute and of youth pursuing their passions in the agricultural field.

“Sue Ellen's devotion to the success of students and knowledge of career opportunities will impact Nebraska agriculture for years to come,” said Kamm. “She has helped thousands of youth discover careers in the agriculture industry and is very deserving of this honor.”

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During NAYI's State Dinner, NAYC Alumni Committee members also presented two, \$1,000 scholarships to deserving Council members for their work and dedication to the agriculture industry.

This year's \$1,000 scholarship awards went to: Felicia Knoerzer, of Elwood, and Wesley Wach, of Wauneta, for their work throughout the year of promoting and sharing information about agriculture with Nebraska youth. Knoerzer is a senior at UNL majoring in animal science. She is president of the 2020-2021 NAYC. Wach is a senior at UNL majoring in agricultural economics. He is serving as secretary of the 2020-2021 Council.

During the scholarship presentation, NAYC Alum Amanda Kowalewski thanked Knoerzer and Wach for giving generously of their time and talents to Nebraska agriculture. "Felicia and Wesley go above and beyond in everything they do, and we're fortunate to have them here in Nebraska leading the way in agriculture."

Scholarships in the amount of \$500 each were awarded to two high school seniors who participated in NAYI this year as returning delegates. Returning delegates have additional responsibilities during NAYI designed to enhance leadership abilities and organizational skills. The two scholarship recipients are Ethan Kreikemeier of West Point, and Madison Kreifels of Syracuse. These two students are planning to attend the University of Nebraska this fall and be a part of CASNR.

NAYI is made possible through donations from agricultural businesses, commodity groups and industry organizations. To learn more about NAYC or NAYI 2021, visit <https://nda.nebraska.gov/nayi/>.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Photos of Sue Ellen Pegg's award presentation, Felicia Knoerzer and Wesley Wach, NAYC's scholarship award recipients, and Ethan Kreikemeier and Madison Kreifels, returning delegate scholarship award recipients, are available by emailing NDA's webmaster at agr.webmaster@nebraska.gov.