Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
January 16, 2025	Recognition Item 3

Title

NAAE Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher Award

Requested Action

School Board Recognition of NAAE Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher Award Winner -- Etowah HS Teacher Ashley Rivers

Summary Explanation and Background

Etowah High School teacher Ashley Rivers, who leads the school's Career Pathway agriculture program, is one of only six teachers nationwide to win the 2024 National Association of Agricultural Educators' Outstanding Agricultural Education Teacher Award.

The honor recognizes teachers at the "pinnacle of their careers, conducting the highest quality agricultural education programs and rewards them for their excellence, leadership, and service in the agricultural education profession," according to the association.

An 18-year educator, Ms. Rivers leads Etowah's Career Pathway agriculture programs, which she has grown to include both Plant and Floral Design Systems and Companion Animal Systems.

The award judges praised Ms. Rivers for her teaching philosophy of fostering student personal growth to prepare them for various careers through initiatives like the student-led greenhouse and career-focused industry certifications.

Ms. Rivers has earned numerous honors for her excellence as an educator. She is a 2024 FFA National Teacher Ambassador, a title earned by only 64 teachers nationwide; and past winner of the Georgia Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association's Outstanding Educator Award and two-time recipient of the Georgia Farm Bureau's First District Young Farmer Excellence in Agriculture Award.

She also serves as Etowah's FFA chapter advisor, which also has earned numerous accolades including the national 2023 3 Star Chapter award, the highest rating awarded.

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List)

N/A

Source of Additional Information

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