Liz (Jost) Thompson

How did Ag Education and FFA help prepare you for your career?

“Ag Education gave me a basic knowledge and understanding of the industry I would eventually work in. FFA gave me the leadership skills, self-confidence, and network to be successful.”

What advice would you give to FFA members?

“FFA members, try a lot of different things, even if you’re scared – especially if you’re scared. Every time I tried something that scared me – public speaking, running for office, etc. – I ended up a stronger person because of it.”

What were your favorite moments in FFA?

“Attending my first National Convention was amazing for me. Walking into the auditorium filled with all those blue jackets made me realize I was a part of something so much bigger than I’d realized before. Other than that – it’s all about the people. From my first chapter meeting to my last conference as part of the National FFA Staff, I met and worked with some really great people, many of whom I keep in touch with to this day.”

Sandra (Byrne) Shinn

How did Ag Education and FFA help prepare you for your career?

“Throughout my career and when I run a meeting, I often refer back to the skills that I learned in FFA. The leadership, teamwork, and public speaking skills that were obtained from being an officer for three years as well as competing in state and national events are priceless.”

What are your favorite FFA memories?

“The friendships that were made. 30+ years later, I am still close and keep in touch with a few people, as well as get together a few times a year.”

How would you define a “successful” life?

“Success is about waking up every morning and wanting to get to the office to start your day. It’s based on a passionate feeling of accomplishment within yourself and your career.”
Sharon (Duckworth) Kinsey

How would you define a “successful” life?
“I feel that if you are proud of who you are and content with the work that you are doing then you have met your own definition of success. Life is all about choices. Choose to pursue what you are passionate about and surround yourself with positive people who support you.”

“FFA members, put in the effort and work hard. Become known for meeting your responsibilities and delivering quality work. Believe in yourself! I would not have set and attained my goals without the support, guidance and care and concern of teachers, the state FFA advisor, and other adult mentors.”

How did Ag Education and FFA help prepare you for your career?
“The collective experiences I had as a seven-year FFA member set the stage for my career in communications/journalism and education. I realized my passion for writing while serving as a state officer. Every meeting, every event, every speech I wrote and delivered brought me one step closer to gaining necessary workplace skills, such as communication, problem solving, team work and leadership. Though I have changed jobs several times over my career, my skills have always been transferable.”

What is your favorite memory in the FFA?
“My best memories are wrapped in the time I served as a state officer. Serving on two state officer teams, meeting ag education students at chapter visits, helping lead FFA conferences and state convention, and traveling around the state to promote Ag Ed and the FFA was one of the best times of my life and ones I will always be thankful.”

Amanda...

• Joined the Woodstown FFA Chapter in 2004
• Served as a State FFA Officer from 2007-2008
• Attended Delaware Valley University for her BA and received an associate’s degree in Veterinary Technology
• Received her American Degree in 2008
• Currently is a high school Science Instructional Assistant, an Adjunct Instructor for Veterinary Assisting, a registered Veterinary Technician at an animal health clinic, and owner of RAS Dairy Farm

Amanda (Hall) Shank

How did Ag Education and FFA help prepare you for your career?
“Ag Education gave me the confidence and resources to pursue opportunities I previously would not have taken. This led to leadership and professional development events, which furthered my confidence and gave me the opportunity to meet many different people.”

“FFA members, put in the effort and work hard. Become known for meeting your responsibilities and delivering quality work. Believe in yourself! I would not have set and attained my goals without the support, guidance and care and concern of teachers, the state FFA advisor, and other adult mentors.”

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What is your favorite memory in the FFA?
“In high school, I enjoyed attending the Washington Leadership Conference. As a state officer, I enjoyed the State Presidents’ conference. Overall, I loved attending the National FFA Convention!”

Everyone has a story to tell. We want to hear yours!

How has the FFA made a difference in your life?
Share Your Story with us at https://form.jotform.com/NJFFA/WhereAreTheyNow and be featured in a special issue!