

## FFA Week in Baytown

In conjunction with National FFA Week, February 21-28, 2015, Baytown Mayor Stephen DonCarlos visited a recent meeting of the Robert E. Lee FFA Chapter to present a proclamation declaring February 16 – 20 as FFA Week in Baytown.

National FFA Week was first celebrated in 1948, after the National FFA Board of Directors designated it as the week of George Washington's birthday, February 22, to recognize his legacy as an agriculturist and farmer. The week is an opportunity for FFA members, alumni and sponsors to advocate for agricultural education and FFA. It is also a time to share with local, state and national audiences what FFA is and the impact it has on members.

The mission of FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The FFA Motto, "Learning to Do. Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve," gives members words to live by as they experience the opportunities the organization provides. According to the FFA Code of Ethics, members pledge to make a positive difference in the lives of others; be courteous, honest and fair with others; communicate in an appropriate, purposeful and positive manner as well as make themselves aware of FFA programs and activities and be an active participant.

The Lee FFA Chapter has 32 members. Lee FFA officers are Makenna Leatherwood, president; Bryon Cummings, vice president; Sabrina Hernandez, secretary; Rebekah Walenta, treasurer, Christian Funes, reporter and Austin Moses, sentinel, Members have animal, welding, horticulture or research projects. FFA members have participated in the Adopt-A-Site program, food drives, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Program Sales, United Showmanship at BYF and Leadership Development Contests.



Mayor Stephen DonCarlos presents a proclamation at a recent meeting of the Robert E. Lee High School FFA declaring February 16-20 FFA Week in Baytown. Pictured are (I to r) Christian Funes, reporter; Rebekah Walenta, treasurer, Austin Moses, sentinel, Mayor DonCarlos; Makenna Leatherwood, president; Sabrina Hernandez, secretary and Bryon Cummings, vice

The program is sponsored by Patricia Hollis, who came to Lee from Baytown Junior School, where she started the FFA program. Hollis was an FFA member from 7th grade through high school and at Sam Houston State University, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in interdisciplinary agriculture, so she is passionate about the program.

"The FFA members I work with know what it takes to be a responsible and appreciative citizen of our community. I know FFA gives the students a since of ownership of their organization and makes them feel at home. My students gain leadership skills, soft skills, public relation skills as well as real life knowledge about everyday things around them. Some of the hands-on activities they do in my class they will remember forever because we just have that much fun," said Hollis.

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