



# 2018-2019 Annual Report Midwest Poultry Consortium

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## 2019 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

Richard "Mick" Fulton of Michigan State University was the recipient of the Midwest Poultry Consortium's 2019 Outstanding Service Award. The award is given each year to an individual who exemplifies Outstanding Service to the Consortium and the poultry industry. The award was given at MPC's Annual Meeting held on Tuesday, March 12.

Mick has been an integral part of MPC's Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship (COE) Program for many years. He has served as an instructor for the COE's Avian Health class and has taken over the role of Course Coordinator. Mick was also the recipient of the 2018 Pullet-zer Prize Award which is determined by a vote of COE students and recognizes the faculty member students feel went above and beyond in their efforts to connect with and educate COE students.

Fulton, the 18<sup>th</sup> recipient, joins past winners: Ken Koelkebeck, *University of Illinois* (2018); Steve Jurek, *GNP* (2017); Mark Richards, *University of Wisconsin* (2016); Mike Lilburn, *The Ohio State University* (2015); Dan Schaefer, *University of Wisconsin* (2014); Patricia Hester, *Purdue University* (2013); Mark Cook, *University of Wisconsin-Madison* (2012); Hongwei Xin, *Iowa State University* (2011); Bernie Wentworth, *University of Wisconsin* (2010); Lou Arrington, *WI Poultry & Egg Association* (2009); Senator Tom Harkin (2008); Wendy Wintersteen, *Iowa State University* (2007); Dennis Casey, *Hy-Line North America* (2006); Sue Lamont, *Iowa State University* (2005); Ron Kean, *University of Wisconsin* (2004); Bob Sparboe, *Sparboe Companies* (2003); and Congressman Tom Latham (2002).



Richard "Mick" Fulton

## RESEARCH LEGISLATION

**MPC Laying Groundwork for Poultry Research Funding.** While it did not get a lot of coverage when the Farm Bill passed in December 2018, MPC was successful in securing authorizing language which may prove to be highly impactful for the poultry industry. Working with key allies in the House and Senate, language was inserted under the High Priority Research and Extension Initiatives section of the Farm Bill for the Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program. While the program has not yet been funded, the authorizing language provides a mechanism allowing MPC to work with appropriators to eventually fund the program. The language states 'Research grants may be made... for the purpose of improving the efficiency and sustainability of laying hen and turkey production through integrated, collaborative research and technology transfer. Emphasis may be placed on laying hen and turkey disease prevention, antimicrobial resistance, nutrition, gut health, and alternative housing systems under extreme seasonal weather conditions.'

Since the ban on earmarks effectively put an end to the highly popular Midwest Poultry Research Program (MPRP) in 2010, MPC has been working to develop an alternative method to secure poultry research funding to address critical industry needs. While further work needs to be done, the authorizing language provides a pathway to secure funding. This first step was a major success in rebuilding a research funding source.

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

**2019 Annual Meeting – March 12.** MPC's Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the Midwest Poultry Federation's Convention. President Beth Nelson provided highlights of the past year including an update on the research funding. Chelsea Russell, Student Director, followed with an overview of the Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship Program (COE) including a faculty update, review of the Poultry Leadership Experience, student recruitment, scholarships, internships, and hires. Former COE student Logan Hulst (2016 COE graduate), employed with Hy-Line International, gave a student testimonial discussing his perspective of classes, internship responsibilities, interaction with other students in his current position, professional interests, and how valuable COE has been to his career. Yuko Sato (Iowa State University), followed with her 'faculty perspective.' In addition to a brief review of the Avian Physiology class and what it offers students, she discussed the preparation that goes

into teaching the class and the reasons she was drawn to teach, due in part to her attending COE classes in 2013. Six board seats were up for election and filled by: Pete Block, *Hy-Line North America* (Allied); Steve George, *Fremont Farms of Iowa* (Egg); Dave Hasemann, *Rose Acre Farms* (Egg); Zach Tucker, *Maple Leaf Farms* (Other Species); Scott Norling, *Willmar Poultry Farms* (Turkey); Terry Wehrkamp, *Cooper Farms* (Turkey).

**MPC Participates in Student Careers Program.** MPC encouraged past and current COE students to attend the second annual Student Careers Program held on March 14, during the Midwest Poultry Federation's Convention. Eleven COE students participated. Past graduates Myah Walker (*Sparboe Farms*) and Aaron Ripplinger (*Pilgrims*) participated in the Industry Career Panel. Past graduates Logan Hulst (*Hy-Line International*) and Brian Joyer (*Hy-Line NA*) participated in the speed networking event. Seven students attended to interview and network within the industry. MPC staff served on MPF's Student Careers Program planning committee, participated in the event's speed networking session, and helped arrange internship and job interviews.



(L to R): Erin Thelander (2017, 2018); Tatum Odland (2014); Jordyn Samper (2019); Logan Hulst (2015, 2016); Taylor Deplazes (2018, 2019); Aaron Ripplinger (2018, 2019); Maddison Wiersema (2018, 2019); Brian Joyer (1999, 2000); Marydith Barkley (2018, 2019); Victoria Mason (2017, 2018); Myah Walker (2008, 2009).

## 2018-2019 Sponsors

Adisseo  
**Alltech**

Anderson Chemical Co.  
Arrington, Lou  
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Aviagen Turkeys  
Best Veterinary Solutions  
Big Dutchman  
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**Iowa Cage Free**

**Iowa Egg Council**

Iowa Turkey Federation  
IsoNova

**Jennie-O Turkey Store**

**\$5,000 • \$10,000 • \$20,000**

**COE Students Honored at Year-End Banquet.** MPC held its 2019 COE Banquet & Awards Ceremony to honor its 36-member class (pictured), one of the largest ever – marking the end of its 24<sup>th</sup> year. COE, an intense 12-week poultry science curriculum over two summers, prepares students for poultry industry employment. It provides an opportunity to earn up to 18 credits, participate in internships paving the way for employment, and develop a lifelong network. The social hour gave students the opportunity to visit with industry representatives about potential employment. The awards ceremony recognized Jonathan Suwarna as the most intelligent student (*Egghead Award*), and for the second year in a row, Reilly Hoefker as class clown (*Yolkster Award*) and Aaron Ripplinger as the most dedicated student (*Ducks in a Row Award*). Faculty members were recognized with the coveted *Mark Cook Pullet-zer Prize*, which went to Zachary Williams (Session I) and Mick Fulton (Session II), both of *Michigan State University*. The award is voted on by students. Others nominees included: Dianna Bourassa, *Auburn University*; Beth Button, *University of Wisconsin*; Anup Johny, *University of Minnesota*; Mark Richards, *University of Wisconsin*; Yuko Sato, *Iowa State University*; and Carl Parsons, *University of Illinois*. Mark Richards presented diplomas to COE graduates completing both COE sessions. 2019 graduates included: Marydith Barkley (ISU), Hannah Campbell (MSU), Yalitza Curiel (ISU), Taylor Deplazes (SDSU), Paige Doklovic (OSU), Reilly Hoefker (SDSU), Miranda Painter (SDSU), Kyle Reichard (PU), Alexis Reily (UW), Aaron Ripplinger (NDSU), Alexandra Volpi (UF), and Maddison Wiersema (ISU).



*Banquet sponsors: Daybreak Foods; Farmer Automatic of America – Aggero; Henning Companies; Hy-Line North America; Life-Science Innovations; Maple Leaf Farms; Naturally Recycled Proteins; Purina Animal Nutrition; Rose Acre Farms; Sonstegard Foods; and Sparboe Farms.*

## 2019 COE – SCHOLARSHIPS, INDUSTRY VIEWS, FACULTY, LEADERSHIP, & INTERNSHIPS

**Scholarship Selection.** Thirty-six students participated in the 2019 COE program, representing all 13 MPC member states. Full scholarships were awarded to 23 students and partial scholarships to 13 students.

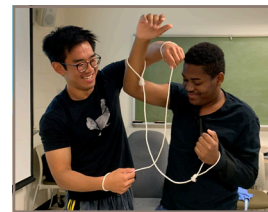
### SUMMER SESSION I

Molly Abrahamson – *University of Minnesota*  
Ava Armour – *University of Illinois*  
Marydith Barkley, *Iowa State University*  
Danielle Brazeau, *Kansas State University*  
Michael Carroll, *University of Minnesota*  
Keaton Gibbs, *University of Missouri*  
Thaddeus Halle, *Purdue University*  
Kaitlyn Hermansen, *University of Wisconsin-River Falls*  
Abigel Jarvis, *University of Missouri*  
Ashley Kuhlman, *Purdue University*  
Haley Lemle, *Michigan State University*  
Jessica Murawski, *Michigan State University*  
Madisyn Murphy, *Purdue University*  
Allison Rapp, *The Ohio State University*  
Jordyn Samper, *Purdue University*  
Dan Serdar, *University of Nebraska*  
Caitlyn Spencer, *Iowa State University*  
Alexandra Volpi, *University of Florida*  
Maddison Wiersema, *Iowa State University*  
Neil Zhao, *Purdue University*

### SUMMER SESSION II

Hannah Campbell, *Michigan State University*  
Yalitza Curiel, *Iowa State University*  
Taylor Deplazes, *South Dakota State University*  
Paige Doklovic, *The Ohio State University*  
Hannah Engle, *Iowa State University*  
Jesseca Fantauzzi, *The Ohio State University*  
Reilly Hoefker, *South Dakota State University*  
Didier Jean, *University of Florida*  
Arianna Nasserjah, *Iowa State University*  
Miranda Painter, *South Dakota State University*  
Natan Plowman, *North Dakota State University*  
Kyle Reichard, *Purdue University*  
Alexis Reily, *University of Wisconsin-Madison*  
Aaron Ripplinger, *North Dakota State University*  
Caralee Stover, *The University of Findlay*  
Jonathan Suwarna, *The Ohio State University*  
Belinda Wilson, *Michigan State University*

**Poultry Leadership Experience (PLE).** Ken Koelkebeck, Poultry Enterprise Management (PEM) Course Coordinator; Beth Nelson and Chelsea Russell (MPC); and Brian Joyer (Hy-Line North America) taught PLE. It is a three-day session incorporated into the PEM course. Prior to COE, students took an MBTI assessment to gauge personality type preferences. PLE uses interactive curriculum to present and reinforce concepts of leadership, emotional intelligence, communication, and teamwork.



**Wednesday Night Forums.** *Wednesday Night Forums*, a popular weekly event, offers students the opportunity to network with industry leaders, learn more about the poultry industry, and explore future career opportunities. Speakers: \*Nick Alt (*Alltech*); \*Abigail Sielaff (*Daybreak Foods*); \*Dave Hasemann, \*Manny Benitez, and \*Stephanie Solberg (*Rose Acre Farms*); Ben Sarabia and \*Emilee Copple (*Trillium Farm Holdings*); \*Alex Hohenstein (*Jennie-O Turkey Store*); Rocky Lisowski and \*Aaron Ripplinger (*Pilgrim's*); and Isa Her (*Hendrix Genetics*). (\*COE graduate)

**Internships.** Twenty-nine industry internships were awarded, they allow students to take classroom knowledge and apply it to real-world settings. Internship hosts:

Alltech  
Cal-Maine Foods  
Cooper Farms  
Daybreak Foods  
Hy-Line North America  
Iowa Cage Free

Jennie-O Turkey Store  
MacFarlane Pheasants  
Maple Leaf Farms  
Michael Foods  
Naturally Recycled Proteins  
Ohio Poultry Association

Oskaloosa Food Products  
Pilgrim's  
Rose Acre Farms  
Sparboe Farms  
Trillium Farm Holdings

**Faculty is Key to COE Success.** A strong commitment by faculty who are dedicated not only to the poultry industry, but to the students they educate, are at the core of COE's success. They include nationally recognized faculty from participating land grant institutions, experienced industry representatives, and professionals from other universities and related agencies. Thanks to the following 2019 COE faculty members and guest speakers who shared their time and expertise; without them, COE would not exist (*Course coordinators*):

#### SUMMER SESSION I

##### Avian Physiology

John Parrish, *University of Wisconsin*

Yuko Sato, *Iowa State University*

Zachary Williams, *Michigan State University*

##### Breeder Flock & Hatchery Management

Ron Kean, *University of Wisconsin*

Danny Lubritz, *Hy-Line International*

Mike Wineland, *North Carolina State University*

##### Poultry Products Technology

Mark Richards, *University of Wisconsin*

Adam Borger, *University of Wisconsin*

Beth Button, *University of Wisconsin*

Dianna Bourassa, *Auburn University*

Sofia Erazo-Castrejon, *University of Wisconsin*

Anup Johny, *University of Minnesota*

Jerry Lens, *Johnsonville Sausage*

Andy Milkowski, *University of Wisconsin*

James Whalen, *University of Wisconsin*

Pam Yoder, *Johnsonville Sausage*

#### SUMMER SESSION II

##### Avian Health

Mick Fulton, *Michigan State University*

Rob Porter, *University of Minnesota*

##### Poultry Nutrition

Liz Bobeck, *Iowa State University*

Carl Parsons, *University of Illinois*

Caitlin Evans, *Kansas State University*

April Waguespack-Levy, *DSM Nutritional Products*

##### Poultry Enterprise Management

Ken Koelkebeck, *University of Illinois*

Jorge Arana, *Nature Link Farms*

Steven Corbitt, *Maple Leaf Farms*

Trudy DeRemer, *MacFarlane Pheasants*

Kelsey Held, *Pilgrim's*

Keith Kulow, *Daybreak Foods*

Jeremy Lies, *Hy-Line NA*

Beth Nelson, *MPC*

Scott Schneider, *Nature Link Farms*

Chelsea Russell, *MPC*

Jillian Theiler, *Daybreak Foods*

## STUDENT PLACEMENT

**COE Students in the News.** MPC's student tracking and database system follows COE graduates not only through their graduation, but also through full-time employment. The goal is to help place COE graduates in full-time positions within MPC member companies and to retain as many students in the industry as possible. Congratulations to the following students on their full-time poultry employment!

**Marydith Barkley**, a 2019 COE graduate, accepted the position of Poultry Health Management Lead with Daybreak Foods in Eagle Grove, IA. She graduated from Iowa State University in May 2019 with a degree in Animal Science.

**Faith Britton**, a 2016 COE participant, accepted the position of Environmental Compliance Technician with Daybreak Foods in Lake Mills, WI. She graduated from North Dakota State University in 2018 with a degree in Animal Science.

**Gabriell Conn**, a 2018 COE graduate, accepted the position of Layer Production and Compliance Director with River View Farms in Orleans, IN. She graduated from Michigan State University in December 2018 with a degree in Animal Science.

**Maria (Arendt) Dashek**, a 2011 COE graduate, accepted the position of Technical Services Manager with BV Science in Columbia, MO. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences from Iowa State University and a DMV and PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Krista Eberle-Krish**, a 2007 COE graduate, accepted the position of R&D Bacteriology Scientist I with CEVA Animal Health in Lenexa, KS. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences from Purdue University, a Masters in Poultry Science from Mississippi State University, and a PhD in Poultry Science from North Carolina State University.

**Taylin Flom**, a 2018 COE participant, accepted the position of Area Assistant Supervisor for Live Production with Jennie-O Turkey Store in Wadena, MN. She graduated from North Dakota State University in May 2019 with a degree in Animal Science.

**Lindsey Leiser**, a 2018 COE graduate, accepted the position of Pullet Management Trainee with Rose Acre Farms in Bouse, AZ. She graduated from Kansas State University in May 2019 with a degree in Animal Science.

**Victoria Mason**, a 2018 COE graduate, accepted the position of Production Best Practice Coordinator with Forsman Farms in Howard Lake, MN. She graduated from Iowa State University in May 2019 with a degree in Animal Science.

**Kaitlyn McCarty**, a 2018 COE participant, accepted the position of Manager Trainee with Cal-Maine Foods in Okeechobee, FL. She graduated from the University of Florida in May 2019 with a degree in Animal Science.

## 2018-2019 Sponsors *cont.*

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**Michael Foods**

Michigan Allied Poultry Ind.

Michigan Turkey Producers

Midwest Livestock Systems

**Midwest Poultry Federation**

**Midwest Poultry Services**

Miller Poultry

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Naturally Recycled Proteins

Nebraska Poultry Industries

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North American Gamebird Assn.

Northern Pride

Nova-Tech Engineering

Novus International

Ohio Poultry Association

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Oskaloosa Food Products

Pearl Valley

Phibro Animal Health

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**Sonstegard Foods**

South Dakota Poultry Ind. Assn.

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Sunrise Acres Egg Farms

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Tecumseh Poultry

Tigges, Kent

**Trillium Farm Holdings**

Turkey Valley Farms

**United Egg Producers**

**University of Florida**

University of Minnesota

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

VAL-CO

VALO BioMedia North America

Wabash Valley Produce

Weaver Brothers

West Liberty Foods

Wisconsin Poultry & Egg Ind. Assn.

Zoetis

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**Lisa Beohm - Allied**

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**Steve George - Egg**

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**Dave Haesmann - Egg**

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Sonstegard Foods

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**Zach Tucker - Other species**

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**Sherry Liu**

IT Director

## Midwest Poultry Consortium

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**Reilly Hoefker**, a 2019 COE graduate, accepted a position with Woodland Acres Hatchery & Game Farm in Fairmont, MN. He graduated from South Dakota State University in June 2019 with a degree in Agriculture Science.

**Aaron Ripplinger**, a 2018 COE participant, accepted the position of Management Trainee with Pilgrim's in Cold Springs, MN. He graduated from North Dakota State University in June 2019 with a degree in Animal Science.

**Zachary Simons**, a 2017 COE graduate, accepted the position of Poultry Account Manager with NovaTech Engineering in Willmar, MN. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May 2018 with degrees in Animal Science and Poultry Science.

**Lisa Tenny**, a 2015 COE participant, accepted the position of Associate Veterinarian with Aviagen in Elmont, AL. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Animal Sciences and Industry and a DMV from Kansas State University.

**Unique Opportunities.** COE students took unique positions prior to embarking on further education.

**Caroline Gregg**, a 2018 COE participant, accepted a summer position as a Research Assistant in Poultry Science with Auburn University. She will graduate from Iowa State University with a degree in Animal Science.

COE students were accepted into graduate programs in areas important to the poultry industry. Congratulations to COE students entering graduate school: Maddison Wiersema (*Iowa State University*) and Luke Zimmerman (*University of Illinois*).

## COE GRADUATES AND SPONSORS HELP MPC SPREAD INTEREST IN POULTRY

### Promoting COE and Bringing Awareness to the Poultry Industry While Recruiting for the 2020 COE.

The fall recruitment season means visits to each of our affiliated schools. In addition to attracting the best students to apply for the COE program, MPC puts focus on increasing student awareness of opportunities within the poultry industry.

**Poultry Panels.** Over 100 students attended NDSU's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Poultry Panel Networking Event to learn about careers in the poultry industry. Panelists included: Abby Scott, *Jennie-O Turkey* (2017 COE student); Aaron Ripplinger, *Pilgrim's* (2019 COE graduate); and Ben Wileman, *Select Genetics*.

South Dakota State University's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Poultry Networking Event attracted over 120 students. Panelists included: Aaron Ripplinger, *Pilgrim's* (2019 COE graduate); Ben Wileman, *Select Genetics*; Clayton Sexton, *Hy-Line North America*; Julie Kelly, *Michael Foods*; Reilly Hoefker, *Woodland Acres Hatchery & Game Farm* (2019 COE graduate). The South Dakota Poultry Industry Association sponsored the food. Thomas Salentiny (2018 COE graduate) moderated the panel.

**Additional Club and Campus Involvement.** MPC has worked to strengthen Poultry Club involvement and give students a better idea of the job opportunities existing in the industry. MPC gave presentations and helped coordinate industry guest speakers for six poultry clubs of affiliated schools.

MPC also works with animal science-related clubs and classes to spread awareness. MPC participated in the Food Industry Mixer and Animal Science Networking Breakfast at Michigan State University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Agriculture Career Fair Networking Breakfast and Reverse Career Fair, and coordinated a poultry presentation for University of Missouri's Block and Bridle club. At the University of Florida, MPC was able to present COE information at its IPPE Interest Night.

In total, MPC gave presentations in 52 classes and attended 11 career fairs. Sixteen current/past COE students helped with class and club presentations as well as with staffing career fair booths.



Keaton Gibbs and Taylor Woodruff at MU career fair.



NDSU Annual Poultry Panel Networking Event.



SDSU Annual Poultry Panel Networking Event.



2019 COE/Purdue students speaking at the poultry club meeting.