

MPC HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

More than 50 participants, including Midwest Poultry Consortium (MPC) members, former Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship Program (COE) students, and COE faculty, gathered for the Midwest Poultry Consortium's 2023 Annual Meeting held on Tuesday, April 11, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. MPC's Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the PEAK Convention, gave members the opportunity to learn about MPC activities over the course of the past year and hear firsthand, from both students and faculty members, how important the COE Program is to the poultry industry.

The meeting began with COE Student Director Chelsea Russell welcoming those in attendance and introducing Dr. Greg Fraley, the Terry and Sandra Tucker Endowed Chair of Poultry Science at Purdue University, who gave a faculty member's perspective of the value of the COE. Dr. Fraley has been involved as a COE faculty member since 2012 and teaches the Avian Physiology course. Dr. Fraley discussed his perspective of the benefits of the COE Program, the teachers with whom he worked, how the things he teaches relate to day-to-day management of birds, and how faculty is working on improving students' "soft skills," i.e., critical thinking in how they approach their work.



Dr. Greg Fraley providing the COE Faculty Perspective.

Beth Nelson, President of the Midwest Poultry Consortium, followed with a presentation highlighting the activities of the Consortium over the past year. Included in Nelson's presentation were updates regarding MPC's members, sponsors, board of directors, and staff, as well as the success MPC has had in securing funding for the Laying Hen & Turkey Research Program which was authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill. Nelson concluded with information regarding the MPC's Memorandum of Understanding with Iowa State University.



COE graduate Dannielle Drees of Elanco Animal Health giving the COE Graduate Testimonial.

Dannielle Drees of Elanco Animal Health followed with a 'COE Graduate Testimonial' in which she detailed her experience at the COE. Dannielle discussed her current job responsibilities with Elanco Animal Health, how she relies on the support of former COE classmates in her current role, the value of her internships, and how those internships led to future employment within the poultry industry.

Chelsea Russell, COE Student Director, continued with a presentation which discussed COE classes, faculty, a historical breakdown of COE students by state, recruitment activities, PLE, Wednesday Night forums, internships, and student placement.

Chelsea continued by recognizing Dr. Anup Kollanoor Johny of the University of Minnesota as the 2023 recipient of MPC's Outstanding Service Award for his dedicated service to the Midwest Poultry Consortium's Center of Excellence Scholarship/Internship Program. Dr. Johny served as an instructor in both the Poultry Products Technology and Poultry Enterprise Management classes at the COE and is the onsite coordinator in years in which the COE is located on the University of Minnesota campus. Dr. Johny earned his Ph.D. in Animal Science and served as a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Connecticut prior to arriving at the University of Minnesota

where he currently serves as Associate Professor in the Department of Animal Science.

The Annual Meeting concluded with Curtis Novak, MPC Chairman, taking motions from the floor to approve the Secretary's Report, the Treasurer's Report, and the Nominating Committee Report which seated the following directors: Janelle Heesch (Broiler); Julie Kelly (Egg); Peter Sonstegard (Egg); Kristine Knobloch (Turkey); Curtis Novak (Allied), and Zachary Simons (Allied). Mike Bowman of Versova was also nominated for the open Egg seat. MPC Board Members are appointed to three-year terms.