

Secretary Of Agriculture To Speak At National FFA Convention

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy will speak Friday afternoon, November 12, to more than 29,000 FFA members, advisors, supporters, and guests at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City, Mo.

Prior to his appointment as secretary of agriculture, Espy represented the second district of Mississippi in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served on the Agriculture and Budget committees.

The convention will feature action-packed sessions with addresses by top speakers from the fields of agriculture, education, government, and entertainment. Confirmed speakers include Senator Larry Craig of Idaho; Dr. Augusta Kappner, assistant secretary for vocational and adult education, United States Department of Education (USDE); Dr. Jackie M. Allen, president of the American School Counselor Association; motivational speaker Emory Austin; Miss America Kimberly Clarice Aiken from South Carolina; cowboy poet Baxter Black;

CNN news reporter John Holliman; Geri Jewell, actress, lecturer, and comedienne; former FFA member John Thompson; and former national FFA secretary, Coby Shorter III.


Shorter is sponsored by the Western Retail Implement and Hardware Association as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Thompson is sponsored by Cargill; Austin is partially sponsored by United Telephone-Midwest; and Miss America is sponsored by Chevy Trucks. Black's travel is provided by Passport Travel.

Opening night festivities on Wednesday, November 10, will include a performance by Grammy award winner Lee Greenwood, sponsored by Commerce Bank of Kansas City.

In addition, convention participants will have opportunities to attend leadership workshops, tour Kansas City manufacturing and agribusiness sites, take in the American Royal Livestock Show and Rodeo performances, and meet with fellow FFA members from across the nation.



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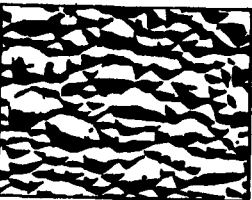
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