

National Officers Teach FFA Makes Positive Impact

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development and leadership resulted in setting goals for himself. One of those was to become a state FFA officer. This is not an

easily attained goal by any FFA member because of the stiff competition among many qualified individuals.
The goal was especially chal-

lenging to Corey, who said, "I am the first African-American and the first urban member to be elected as a national FFA president."

In Illinois, unlike most areas, officers are elected by popularity ballot. Not one to let racial differences stand in his way, but realistic enough to know that his race and urban status might be considered a disadvantage, Corey decided to do the best he could in every area of involvement.

He credits his belief in God and his mother's encouragement to his ability to persevere.

In 1992, he was named FFA vice president for the state of Illinois. After serving on the state level, Corey ran for national office, which requires extensive interviews and written tests on everything from FFA history to ag issues.

Corey said that he learned to concentrate on doing his best and was satisfied that he had done so. Being named president on November 12 at 2:45 p.m. at the national convention in Kansas City, Missouri, in front of 34,500 members,

was almost anticlimactic — until it happened.

"It was overwhelming. It's like a Miss America contest with everyone cheering and crying," he said.

His election to the national presidency allows Corey to travel across the nation and even internationally to encourage students — especially minorities — to join FFA for the many opportunities offered.

After a year of FFA duties, Corey will resume his studies at the University of Illinois in ag economics, marketing and sales.

Greg Vetter, FFA's national western region vice president, hails from Wyoming where he helps his family with their 2,400-acre ranch.

Greg's original interest in joining FFA was for the production agriculture training, but he thrived on the communication and leadership training offered.

"The tools are available to learn to do anything you want to do if you take advantage of them," he said. "Any student who takes advantage of the opportunities will gain leadership and personal

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Trisha Bailey
"Every one has potential leadership skills. They just need something to push them to develop those skills."



Jennafer Neufeld
"Advisers really make a difference in the lives of the students."



Corey Flourney who is the national FFA president was recently reunited with his former FFA adviser, Marcia Paterson, who is now advisor at the Milton Hershey High School. Corey said that Paterson taught him to take personal responsibility and work out the details for workshops and speeches.



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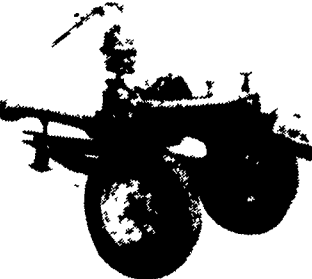
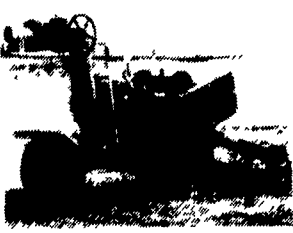
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