

# Congratulations to the



# 2003 Award Recipients

## Missouri ACTE 2003 Teacher of the Year James "Rusty" Black



*James "Rusty" Black*

Rusty Black is employed at the Grand River Technical School (GRT) in Chillicothe, Missouri as an agriculture teacher in the local Agriculture Education Department. The GRT Agriculture Department serves five sending schools, with a majority of the program's student population from Chillicothe High School.

To say Rusty is "on the move" is putting it mildly! His teaching assignment includes teaching Agriculture Science I at the Chillicothe High School for three periods. Then he travels to Southwest High School for one class of Agriculture Science I. After this period, he travels to the GRT and instructs an Agricultural Science I class for first year sophmores entering the GRT Ag program. Units in the curriculum include Leadership, Animal Breeding, Agricultural Mechanics, Record Keeping/SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience), Animal Nutrition, Livestock Selection and a career development event.

Rusty is also active in the management of the Grand River Technical School Land Lab. His responsibilities include daily inspection and some maintenance of the facility.

Rusty also works with two other instructors to oversee daily care of the livestock and grounds. He is also very active in the procurement of funds to maintain and expand opportunities at the lab, as these monies are contributed privately, not provided by the school district.

Rusty is responsible for four career development teams; annually works with five or six students preparing for speaking contests; and works with students preparing for officer interviews at the Area and State level. He also works with the local Future Farmers of America (FFA) Alumni Chapter. The Land Lab has an oversight board and as the instructor, Rusty is responsible for their meetings and activities.

Rusty's major accomplishment has been his interest in students and the resulting increase in membership in the Agricultural Program at both of the schools where he has been employed. When he entered the profession at Nodaway-Holt High School in 1984, the FFA membership numbered in the low twenties. When he left the program, over seventy students were members of the local FFA.

Rusty has demonstrated, over and over again, his talents as a teacher and why he so richly deserves being named Missouri ACTE's 2003 Teacher of the Year. Congratulations, Rusty!

# Missouri ACTE 2003 Outstanding Teacher In Community Service - Keith A. Davis



*Keith A. Davis*

Behind each member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA) is an advisor who works one-on-one with students, helping them develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success. Lebanon Technology and Career Center is fortunate to have such an excellent advisor in Keith Davis. It

is difficult to mention Keith without talking about his students and their contributions to the community.

Keith serves as the Vocational Agriculture instructor and FFA advisor for over 100 students at the Lebanon Technology and Career Center. His contributions to the Lebanon community are vast and the majority involves the work and dedication of the students he has inspired. Here are a few examples:

- ♦ Lebanon Farm Fest - for the past nine years - staffs and maintains a petting zoo for children during the festival;
- ♦ Missouri Department of Conservation's Habitat for Wildlife project - gathers Christmas trees and assembles them with pallets to build wildlife habitats along the river for animals seeking refuge;
- ♦ Local fairgrounds - maintains the facilities, sets up the barns, and helps run the livestock judging contest each July at the Laclede County Fair; sets up the corral panels and timers, makes sure the American Cowboy Rodeo Association's Finals are ready to go when the first steer leaves the chute; and

- ♦ Cowan Civic Center - sets up panels for the National Association of Breeders of Missouri Fox Trotting Horses and volunteered to construct an ice-skating rink for the Holiday Spectacular on Ice performance.

In addition, students in Keith's Agricultural Construction classes built bleachers as a community service project to be placed at the fairgrounds. This was a collaborative project between the city parks department and Carmeco, Inc., with a \$500 Building Our American Communities (BOAC) grant and the sweat equity of the students

Dog Dippin' Days was another community service project Keith and his students have performed. During the month of June, two dog-dippin' sites are established in town. FFA students and the advisor washed and dipped dogs belonging to people in the community.

Students are responsible for teaching farm safety techniques to fourth graders at Boswell Elementary School. The FFA students explain the dangers in operating various farm tools and equipment, as well as demonstrate safety rules for students' protection.

Keith's dedication to his students and his community has resulted in an improved quality of life for all those who pass through Lebanon, Missouri. We congratulate Keith on being named Missouri ACTE 2003 Outstanding Teacher in Community Service.

# Legislators Making A Difference



## Representative Pearce

Rep. David Pearce, a Republican elected to the House in November, 2002, represents part of Johnson County (District 121) in the Missouri House of Representatives.

In his first term as a member of the Missouri House of Representatives, Rep.

Pearce hit the ground running bringing knowledge from his background as a master certified board member of the Missouri School Boards Association, a member of the Warrensburg School Board, and as director of FFA Made for Excellence. His background and expertise provided leadership and knowledge in the Missouri House Education Appropriations committee.

He serves as a member of the Financial Services Committee, Appropriations - Education Committee, Rule Committee; and as Vice Chairman of the Job Creation and Economic Development Committee.

In addition to his legislative duties, Rep. Pearce is a banker with First Community Bank in Warrensburg. He also served as director for the 500-member Warrensburg Chamber of Commerce from 1988-94. A master certified board member of the Missouri School Boards Association, Rep. Pearce is a member of the following organizations: First Presbyterian Church, Warrensburg School Board; Warrensburg Rotary; District III Area Agency on Aging Futures Task Force; Whiteman Air Force Base Community Council; American Cancer Society Relay for Life, treasurer; and director, FFA Made for Excellence.

A 1978 graduate of Warrensburg High School, Rep. Pearce attended Central Missouri State University and received a bachelor of science degree in agri-journalism from the University of Missouri in 1984.

Representative Pearce lives in Warrensburg with his wife, Teresa, and their two children, Molly and Andrew.

## Senator Coleman

Senator Maida Coleman, a Democrat representing the 5th Senatorial District, was elected to the Missouri Senate in February, 2002.

With her background on several boards and not-for-profit groups, Sen. Maida Coleman has brought a unique vision to the Missouri General Assembly and the

Senate Appropriations committee concerning the educational needs of children in Missouri. Sen. Coleman was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 2000 but only served one year before being asked to fill a vacancy in the 5th Senatorial district. Since that time, she has been elected as Assistant Minority Floor Leader of the Senate demonstrating her caucus leadership potential.

She serves as a member of the Senate Agriculture, Conservation, Parks and Natural Resources Appropriations, Joint Committee on Corrections, Financial and Governmental Organization, Veterans' Affairs and Elections, Gubernatorial Appointments, and Senate Interim Committee on Regional Control of Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

The eldest of eight children from Sikeston, MO, Senator Maida Coleman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO.

Maida's interest in politics evolved as the result of a conversation in the late 1980's with now Missouri Supreme Court Judge Ronnie White. A former State Representative for the 63rd District, Judge White invited Maida to a 7th Ward meeting. Maida has since held various roles in the organization including President. She is now serving her second term as Committeewoman of the 7th Ward.

Additionally, Maida is Vice-Chairman of the St. Louis City Democratic Central Committee. She sits on a variety of boards, many non-profit, and is a member of Central Baptist Church in St. Louis.

Maida is the proud mother of three very fine children - John, Alaina and James.

