

BEING AN FFA OFFICER



Competency 6 - Passion for Success

Displays personal attributes that are courageous and passionate in carrying out the FFA mission with contagious enthusiasm.

Competency Builders and Indicators:

- 6.1 - Displays self-confidence
- 6.2 - Committed to the FFA
- 6.3 - Demonstrates an energetic disposition
- 6.4 – Displays initiative in completing a task

When you are a national officer, success means carrying out the FFA mission with an attitude of courage and passion.

In his own words...

Ronnie Simmons, National FFA Southern Region Vice President 2000-2001

Like most young people, I grew up full of youthful dreams—dreams like becoming a firefighter, a police officer, a pilot and even an astronaut. Each time I would see a fire truck, a police car, an airplane or a space shuttle, my excitement and passion for these careers would become more real to me. As I reached middle school, and especially high school age, these thoughts began to fade. I found my new passion in my agriculture classes and especially in FFA. From career development events to chapter offices – I wanted to do it all! I found my niche. While I felt a desire to be successful in so many different areas, it wasn't until my year as a national officer that I witnessed what it means to have a true passion for success.

Traveling throughout Missouri during the week of September 11, 2001 gave me great insight into what passion and success were all about. For nearly a week after September 11, the world seemed to come to a halt—many people didn't leave home, offices were closed and people were living in fear. As I was driving with a local FFA advisor from one school to the next, I saw the most amazing sight—a farmer out working the field with a huge American flag flown proudly from the back of his tractor. In that moment, I realized the meaning of passion for success. While many sat idle, in shock, disbelief and fear, one American farmer had the courage and passion to continue doing what he knew best. That farmer and his flag will forever remain a vivid image in my mind as I think about what it means to be passionate and successful in my own life.



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Being confident is having the self-belief and personal conviction that you can be successful no matter what. Whether it is an FFA competition, running for an office or applying for a job, confidence for me is striving to do my “own personal best” while being mindful and respectful of those who have helped me along the way.

I do not recall having too much trouble staying motivated during my year of service. However, I do remember many long days and some very short nights in the busier parts of the year. As you might imagine, there would be times when I didn’t know exactly how I would make it through the week or even through that day’s event! Being closely tied to my family and friends, I tried to take every opportunity to keep in touch with those who inspire me to continue doing my best. Each day as an officer is very different from the next – part of my motivation came from the curiosity of what might be lurking around the corner!

Supporting the FFA mission is simply making a difference in the lives of others, whether it is in the areas of premier leadership, personal growth or career success or simply sharing the FFA story with someone who might not know us.

I would hope that any FFA member who plans to run for national office would understand that not every minute of your year of service is glamorous and not every moment will be captured in the spotlight. Instead, you might spend hours or days preparing for events, managing your travel schedule, training, writing speeches, etc. It is during these times that you must remember the value that making a difference in the life of one FFA member might have. It may take an entire month trying to find the perfect words for that speech...and it might only be that one perfect phrase that makes all the difference in the world for that FFA member who is listening.

