

Donald L. Michael



Donald L. Michael was born Sept. 8, 1949 in Parkersburg. During his multi-decade career, he was the face of FFA in West Virginia and later served as the West Virginia Farm Bureau's (WVFB) Director of Government Affairs.

He graduated from Cairo High School, attended Glenville State College, and graduated with honors from WVU in 1971 with a B.S. degree in Agricultural Education. While there, he was President of the collegiate FFA chapter and a member of Alpha Tau Alpha, the national honorary fraternity for agricultural education.

He earned a Master's Degree in Vocational Education from Marshall University in 1978, adding 30-plus course hours

afterward.

He started his professional career in 1971 as a Vo-Ag Teacher and FFA Advisor at Greenbrier West High School. In 1973, he moved to the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) as a Program Specialist for Vocational Agriculture and Executive Secretary for the state FFA Association. In 1977, he became the State Supervisor for Agricultural Education and the state FFA Advisor.

Throughout his time at the WVDE, he was involved in planning and directing countless FFA conventions, conferences and state officer activities. He also provided technical assistance to teachers and administrators throughout the state, and he was instrumental in developing a variety of vocational curricula. He represented the state at numerous regional and national workshops and conferences. Over the course of his career, he leveraged cooperative working relationships with a host of public officials to advocate for farming and agriculture education.

He served a three-year term on the national FFA Board of Directors and Board of Trustees, he was President and Board Member of the Mountain State Art and Craft Fair for many years, he served on the West Virginia Conservation Awards Committee, was Treasurer of the state Conservation Camp Committee, and served on the state Youth Conservation Program Advisory Board. He is a former Board Member and Past President of the WVU College of Agriculture, Forestry and Consumer Sciences Alumni Association. In 1998, he directed Governor Cecil Underwood's Visioning Conference on Agricultural Education.

He has received a multitude of awards and recognitions including the Award of Merit for Distinguished Service to Agriculture from the WVU Chapter of Gamma Sigma Delta, Honorary Chapter Farmer / FFA Degrees / Blue and Gold Awards from numerous state FFA chapters, a State Farmer Degree, an Honorary American FFA Degree, Teacher of Teachers Award from NVATA, Outstanding Service Award and VIP Citation from the WVFFA Association, National VIP Citation, West Virginia Ambassador of Goodwill Award from the West Virginia Secretary of State, and the Distinguished and Outstanding Service Award from the WVDE.