**Atwater High School Agriculture Department**

**Atwater FFA**

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##### PRESS RELEASE

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Written by: Atwater FFA

**Atwater FFA Wins National FFA Championships**

For the first time in Atwater High School history, the Atwater FFA earned two FFA national championships and a 1st high individual championship at the 2016 National FFA Finals and 89th annual FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana on October 22nd. “It was an emotional thrill to see the results of our students’ time, effort, commitment, and determination,” said Atwater High School agriculture instructor and coach Kim Macintosh. “The entire process of competing at the National FFA Finals against the best from every state was incredible!”

Atwater High School 2016 graduate Andrew Skidmore was the National FFA Champion Extemporaneous Speaker. In the Extemporaneous Public Speaking Career Development Event (CDE), participants are given 30 minutes to deliver a speech on one of three assigned agricultural topics. Students must learn to think on their feet and develop an argument quickly and persuasively.

Atwater High School FFA’s Marketing Plan team won the National FFA Marketing Plan contest. The team was comprised of 2016 graduates Amanda Skidmore, Erika Matola, and Juan Hernandez. The National FFA Marketing Plan CDE helps students practice and sharpen skills in marketing through the development and presentation of a marketing plan. The plan may focus on the introduction of a new agricultural product, supply or service or on improving marketing of an existing product, supply, or service.

Atwater High School FFA’s Milk Quality and Dairy Foods team placed 3rd overall in the nation with Atwater High School senior Daryl Dorsey placing 1st high individual overall in the nation. The team was also comprised of Atwater High School seniors Christina Aguilar, Jessica Prado, and Christina Aguilar. The National FFA Milk Quality and Products CDE is a competitive event that allows students to prove their knowledge about the recognition, selection and management necessary for quality milk and dairy products. Participants must complete a written exam on milk production and marketing, evaluate milk samples for flavor and quality, identify cheeses and characteristics and complete milk acceptability tests in the team activity.

$25,000 was raised by local and state community members and agriculture industry representatives to cover the cost of the student’s trip to both Indianapolis, Indiana and Washington DC. “We believe the contributions and support by others is an investment towards our students and agriculture program,” said Atwater High School agriculture instructor and advisor. “The results earned by our students provide those who support us a positive return on their investment.”

The National FFA Organization is a national youth organization of 649,355 student members as part of 7,859 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The National FFA Organization operates under a federal charter granted by the 81st United States Congress and it is an integral part of public instruction in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Education provides leadership and helps set direction for FFA as a service to state and local agricultural education programs.

For more information on this event, upcoming events, and information on the Atwater FFA, log on their website at [www.AtwaterFFA.org](http://www.atwaterffa.org/) or follow them on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.