



2023 Honoree Monte Anderson

Although not born on a farm, Monte Anderson's roots trace back to a rural upbringing and rural schooling when Monte's parents purposefully relocated the family to the countryside area to embrace rural living. He embodied the spirit of being 'country before country was cool,' having been raised alongside five siblings in a close-knit family.

Monte's journey from Illinois led him to the heart of Ohio's agriculture community. With a passion to make a meaningful impact, he played a pivotal role in establishing the agribusiness program at Wilmington College. Collaborating with industry pioneers and mentors such as John Foltz and George Greenleaf, Monte's commitment elevated the program's level of professionalism and set high expectations to foster a skilled workforce.

According to Monte, OABA played an indispensable role in Wilmington College's agriculture programs' accomplishments. Through their support, Monte and his team achieved success in not only shaping the program but also in bridging the gap between education and industry needs. OABA's influence was particularly evident in their active involvement in hiring students from the program, a testament to the program's effectiveness and the students' preparedness.

Prior to his time at Wilmington College, Monte earned a Ph.D. in Agricultural Education from The Ohio State University. His career began as Division Director for Agriculture at Blackhawk Community College, where his innovative recruitment strategy saw the enrollment of more than 200 full-time students.

Over a span of 35 years at Wilmington College, Dr. Anderson's career is a rich narrative of sowing seeds and mentoring. Serving as chair and coordinator of Wilmington College's Agriculture Department, he advised a yearly cohort of more than 275 agriculture students. Under his guidance, students were empowered to foster their own agricultural aspirations, developing into skilled and confident professionals.

Dr. Anderson's advocacy shined beyond the classroom, too. His legacy paints a portrait of commitment to education, agriculture, and student development. As the 2023 Ohio AgriBusiness Association Educational Trust Honoree, Monte Anderson stands as an inspiration for his remarkable contributions to education and workforce development for the agriculture industry.

For more than 50 years, the OABA Educational Trust

has provided scholarships annually to students enrolled in an agriculture-related field attending The Ohio State University and OSU Agricultural Technical Institute, Central State University, Clark State College and Wilmington College.