



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Citation

Whereas, throughout our state and nation's history, farming and agriculture have been one of the most profitable industries and chief components of our economy and, for many generations, agricultural education programs have empowered millions of young Americans, both personally and professionally, by pursuing post-secondary education and competing successfully as employees and entrepreneurs; and

Whereas, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, educators, agriculturists, economists, and industry leaders saw the need for a national system of practical education to enhance the study of traditional academic subjects with hands-on learning to foster the knowledge and skills needed by a citizenry that can achieve its highest level of productivity; and

Whereas, agricultural education provides a strong foundation for youth and the future of the food, fiber, and natural resource systems; New York State has long been a national leader in this area, as home to some of the country's first agricultural education programs – including the oldest urban agriculture program in the nation – and as one of the first states to allow girls to pursue these curriculums; and

Whereas, on February 17, 1917, the Smith-Hughes National Vocational Education Act was approved by the 64th United States Congress in a bipartisan vote and became law on February 23, 1917, upon being signed by President Woodrow Wilson; and

Whereas, as a result of this landmark federal legislation, a cohesive national system of career and technical education was developed and continues today, through which 94 percent of American secondary students – 15 million nationwide – participate in authentic, meaningful experiences in 16 cutting-edge career areas; and

Whereas, as an extension of the Smith-Hughes movement, youth leadership development organizations were established to provide practical training and instructional programs, including the Future Farmers of America (FFA) Organization, which equips its members with the values, skills, and understanding to engage as effective leaders; and

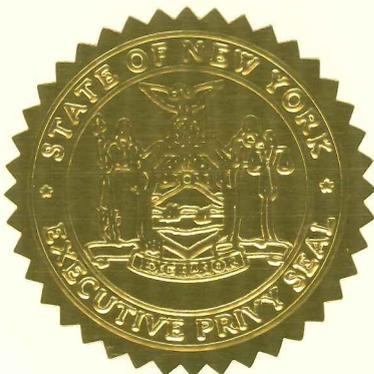
Whereas, New York State has a rich history of progressive leadership in the FFA Organization, with 13 National FFA officers, including the first-in-the-state female national officer; and

Whereas, the Empire State continues to set an example for the rest of the country with cutting-edge curriculum, which influences more than 10,000 students annually, and by providing some of the most innovative and high-quality professional development opportunities for agriculture educators, helping to meet the demand for these vital programs;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, hereby confer this Citation to commemorate the

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SMITH-HUGHES ACT

and recognize this outstanding curriculum and its success in enhancing the individual skills and productivity of our citizenry.



Governor
February 2017