

MPC Holds Annual Meeting via Zoom

The Midwest Poultry Consortium held its 2021 Annual Meeting via Zoom on Monday, March 29. This method allowed a convenient method of participation for many who have not been able to attend in-person meetings.

President Beth Nelson began the meeting by welcoming those in attendance and highlighted MPC's member states, board members, sponsors, staff, gave a review of the past Midwest Poultry Research Program, and the Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program.

MPC Student Director Chelsea Russell followed with an overview of the COE. It included a review of 2021 scholarship recipients, course coordinators, and the Poultry Leadership Experience (PLE), which teaches and reinforces concepts of leadership, emotional intelligence, communication, and teamwork. Russell also reviewed student recruitment efforts, internship updates, and student placement efforts over the past year.

Russell then introduced Dr. Anup Johny of the University of Minnesota who gave his perspective of the benefits of the COE Program. Dr. Johny discussed why he believes participating as a faculty member in the COE is so important, how the COE plays a critical role in feeding a growing population and creating a well-trained workforce, and the benefits the COE offers students, faculty, and the poultry industry as a whole.

Russell turned the meeting over to MPC Chair Curtis Novak for the formal approval of the Secretary's, Treasurer's, and Nominating Committee reports. Chair Novak then recognized Dr. Elizabeth Bobeck of Iowa State University as the recipient of MPC's 2021 Outstanding Service Award.

Novak then introduced former COE student and MPC board member Zachary Simons, currently employed with Nova-Tech Engineering, who gave the COE student testimonial regarding his experience as a COE participant and the benefits it has had on his professional career. Simons discussed how the COE afforded him networking opportunities, career confidence, support from the Midwest Poultry Consortium, lifelong friendships, and how valuable the COE has been to his career. Simons, a 2017 graduate of the COE, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May of 2018 with degrees in Poultry Science and Animal Science.