

Michael Baird, West Lafayette, Ind., has been selected as a member of the 2012-2013 Agriculture Future of America (AFA) Student Advisory Team. Baird, along with eight other college students from seven states, serves as an ambassador for the organization and will help to develop the strategic direction for the organization in 2012. Members also help plan and deliver the AFA Leaders Conference.

Baird, a senior at Purdue University, majoring in horticulture and agribusiness management, was selected for this elite team based on his academic and leadership activities. Since April, Baird has worked diligently with AFA staff and volunteers to plan the AFA Leaders Conference, which will be held Nov. 1-4, 2012 in Kansas City, Mo. The Conference will bring together more than 500 students from across the nation through a competitive application process.

In addition to planning the AFA Leaders Conference, student advisors have the chance to interact with industry and association leaders, learn about career opportunities, take on leadership roles and receive media and communications training. Team members also receive the AFA Student Advisory Team academic scholarship.

“Each year, AFA is fortunate to have men and women seek the opportunity to serve as student advisors and each year, the team gets stronger,” said Russ Weathers, AFA President and CEO. “The 2012-13 team promises to set a new standard of leadership.”

About AFA

AFA's mission is to create partnerships that identify, encourage and support outstanding college men and women who are preparing for careers in the agriculture and food industry. With student participation increasing 38 percent in the last five years, AFA leader development programs have impacted nearly 7,000 students from more than 115 universities in 42 states since its inception in 1996. AFA has awarded more than \$6 million in academic and leader development scholarships. For more information about AFA, visit www.agfuture.org or contact Megan Karlin at megan.karlin@agfuture.org.