

EMCEE: [Outstanding Youth Award]

When we think outstanding Youth, we think motivated, hardworking, creative, innovative, energetic, and passionate. I will be the first to admit that these past two years have given our youth more hurdles and roadblocks than we can imagine and yet we have seen these students rise above and lead with success. They haven't let the circumstances steer the outcome, instead, they took control of the wheel and forged a new path into a territory that had not been navigated.

Today's youth have shown resilience, imagination, inventiveness, and a spirit of determination while still trying to just be kids during this strange time. Our recipient tonight has been an example of these traits to their family, school, youth organizations, church, and community. They are never content with the status quo, and they are always pushing to improve a situation, to better an organization or a community. Their focus is on how they can make something better for everyone, not simply for themselves. When you ask them to talk about their dreams and their future, it's always about what they can do to impact as many people as possible, not how it benefits her personally.

As an example, she had a goal for her local FFA chapter to go to the FFA National Convention before she graduated. She knew in her heart that attending something of this size would be life-changing for not only her but the officer team that attended. She knew how that experience would be shared with others in the Dufur FFA chapter for years to come. With a short timeline in front of her, she applied her enthusiasm and drive along with teamwork, and they raised the money needed within two months. The kids are still talking about all they learned, and we know that they will be applying all the leadership skills learned to not only their chapter but to their entire community.

Leadership is where this young lady shines. She truly found her stride as an FFA officer and has moved from different positions to now serve as Chapter President along with the District Officer for the Central Oregon Region. She is determined to serve in this organization and will be running for an FFA State Officer position in February. We at the Chamber wish her the best and we look forward to hearing about our community being represented by individual who approaches tasks and opportunities with a sunny attitude, bright smile, great wit, and determination! She truly has an energy about her that draws everyone in, making them want to be a part of whatever it is she's involved in. In the words of Alicia Keys, This girl is on FIRE!

We are proud of you and are honored to introduce you as our 2021 Outstanding Youth of the year ... Maddie Dollarhide