



**KANSAS**  
**FFA ASSOCIATION**

## State Officer Application

**Bricen R Benyshek (Bricen)**  
**Concordia FFA Chapter**



# Educational Background and Status

**High School**

Concordia High School

**Chapter Name**

Concordia

**Chapter Number**

034

**Number in High School Class**

76

**Your Rank in High School Class**

1

**Semesters of Agricultural Education Completed**

4

**Years in FFA**

6

**In what level of education are you currently enrolled?**

High School

**If you will be enrolled in post-secondary education following election to state office, where will you be attending?**

Kansas State University

**Anticipated College Major**

Biomedical Engineering, Pre-Med

**Career Objective**

I plan to stay in rural Kansas to practice medicine as a doctor while owning a small livestock operation.

# FFA and Agriculture Education Experience

## **Supervised Agriculture Experience Program and Scope**

My first SAE is placement in agricultural education. I perform duties like managing care, teaching students, & promoting agriculture. My second SAE is in community development. I share agricultural trivia & videos, development questions & self-help quotes via social media. I posted 27 agriculture facts, 16 development questions, 4 self-help segments, 65 quotes, & 14 agricultural videos with over 11,000 engagements total. I learned about educating all ages on topics in agricultural production.

Maximum of 500 characters

## **FFA Leadership Experience: (Office/Committee Assignment, Organization/Group, Year Held) - List up to 5**

President, Concordia FFA Chapter, 1 year (2023-2024); Vice-President, Concordia FFA Chapter, 1 year (2022-2023); State Delegate, Kansas FFA, 1 year (2022-2023); Executive Committee Chair- Growing Leaders, Concordia FFA, 2 years (2022-2024); AET Coordinator, Concordia FFA, 1 year (2023-2024)

Example: Chapter Vice President, Blue and Gold FFA Chapter, 1 year (2019-2020)

## **FFA Activities: (Chapter, District or National Events; CDEs; LDEs; Leadership Programs; and other FFA sponsored activities) - List up to 10**

National Convention - 3 years; National FFA Band Member - 2 years; State Convention - 2 years; State Delegate - 1 year; Job Interview LDE - 1 year; Prepared Public Speaking LDE - 1 year; Parliamentary; Procedure LDE - 1 year; Livestock Judging CDE - 3 years; Entomology Judging CDE - 4 years; Ag-Awareness Day - 3 years.

Examples: Livestock Judging CDE - 3 years; Leader Lab - 1 year; National Convention - 2 years

## **Other Leadership and Service Activities: (Community, School, 4-H, Church, Sports, Clubs, etc.) - List up to 10**

Band- Drum Major (1 year), Baritone Section Leader and Member (9 years); 4-H- Cloud County Council President (2 years), River Valley District Ambassador (3 years), Club President (3 years), Member (11 years); Scholars Bowl- Captain (1 year), Linguist and Member (3 years); Chess- Captain (4 years), Member (12 years); Cloud County Farm Bureau- Student Ag-Ambassador (1 year); Key Club- Vice-President and Member (1 year); North Central Kansas Down Syndrome Society- Honorary Member (4 years), Volunteer (6 years); Tennis- Varsity #1 Singles (3 years), Jack Mitchell Tennis Player of the Year (1 year); Youth Ministries- Worship Team (2 years), Member (12 years); Concordia Wesleyan Church- Vacation Bible School Leader (3 years), Volunteer and Member (6 years).

Examples: Football Team - 4 years; CYO - 2 years; 4-H - Member (10 years), Club President (2 years)

## Essay Questions

### **What is your biggest accomplishment up until now? How has it shaped you and your leadership style?**

A few months ago, I lauded my best accomplishments as being selected for the National FFA Band and placing second in a statewide photo contest. Now, my perspective has shifted to believe my accomplishments come from who I am as a person; not just an outcome. It's easy to find joy in arriving at a destination, but it's more challenging to appreciate the journey. This is why my greatest accomplishment lies in learning to fail.

Failing to get slated for district FFA office is one of the failures life has used to allow me to learn. On the day of selection, my name was not called; my heart sank. What I felt can be compared to a plant when it does not receive enough water. It felt like the sun was pressing me down, wilting me back into the soil. It was when I reached my roots that I realized this was a live-or-die moment. I decided I could fold under the heat or dig deeper to find a new path. I focused my attention on the absolute goal: finding conditions that would allow me to grow through this outcome. After this, I was more motivated to pursue and maintain my presence in FFA. This experience has planted a seed and allowed me to grow.

In another instance, failure came to me as a ruined GPA. College general chemistry tested my ability to maintain perfection. This course challenged me more than ever, sometimes making me question my mental sanity. Each assignment began bombarding me with more force, taking more and more time to complete. It felt so overwhelming. I sought advice from my high school chemistry teacher. Together, my teacher and I battled to overpower the coursework. Nonetheless, our efforts were not enough, and I ended the semester with a B; my GPA dropped below 4.0. At first, I was crushed, but after thinking, I realized something: I was free! No longer did I have to worry about being perfect. This failure taught me the importance of reaching out for assistance and building relationships with those around me. Most importantly, it showed me that it's okay to be human and make mistakes.

Learning to fail is not failing to learn; it's an opportunity to develop. Every individual has faced failure at some point in their life, and I used mine as a learning environment. Failure equips leaders by teaching them lessons. For me, these lessons included developing character, taking assistance from those willing to help, and above all, being human. Embracing it has been the most rewarding and fulfilling personal accomplishment of my life.

2500 character limit

### **If elected, how would you positively influence the Kansas FFA Association?**

I plan to shape the next generation of FFA members by igniting growth and using G.R.I.T. to improve the overall experience. State and national FFA officers have ignited a flame within me, and I want to be the spark for members in Kansas. After interacting with these officers, I felt overjoyed and valuable to FFA. I want to be able to interact with every member of our organization and connect with them on a personal level. I will achieve this by writing monthly letters to chapters. Members' voices and aspirations guide our path forward, meaning they should be treated precious. I enjoy seeing members grow and communicating with them sincerely, even if it makes me nervous. I will prioritize congratulating members when they achieve success because sometimes the smallest recognition can ignite the fiercest of flames.

Another aspect of influence is my personality, which is an innovator. I innovate using the acronym

G.R.I.T. for leadership and problem-solving. I live by this acronym. G for guts, R for risks, I for initiative, and T for tenacity. As a state officer, I will be propelled out of my comfort zone, activating my guts to stay vigilant. I will be tasked with making bold decisions, connecting to risk. However, neither guts nor risk accomplishes much without initiative. Taking initiative is rewarding and will allow new opportunities to open up. Lastly, I will use my tenacious mindset to overcome any adversity. Adversity can be found around every corner, which is why I look for positive factors in every situation.

Leaving a lasting legacy is important to me. I was once asked if I would rather be a pen or a pencil. Many decided on a pencil because they could erase mistakes they made, but I chose a pen. To this day I choose pen because no matter what you do, you will be leaving an imprint. As my art teacher, Mrs. Sprauge taught me, there are no mistakes, just happy accidents contributing to your work. I am always looking for new ways to improve and overcome obstacles I face. This perspective fuels my ambition to revolutionize the Kansas FFA Association through perpetual growth and improvement. I envision a future where members are empowered to explore limitless possibilities and recognize that FFA is not solely for those interested in agriculture but also for anyone seeking personal growth and development. Given the chance, I would use this passion, energy, and curiosity to invest and leave my mark on the Kansas FFA Association.

2500 character limit

**Signature of State Officer Candidate**



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bricen Benyshek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Use your mouse or finger to draw your signature above