

Ohio State ATI Commencement set for June 9

Local graduate to give student address

(Wooster, Ohio) May 31, 2007 – The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute will confer degrees and certificates to 211 graduates at its 34th commencement exercises on Saturday, June 9 at 11 a.m. at Fisher Auditorium.

This year's commencement speaker is Dr. L.H. Newcomb, senior associate dean of the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences and Price Chair in Teaching, Advising and Learning. He provides leadership for the college's undergraduate and graduate programs and assists Dean Bobby Moser in envisioning and implementing the various initiatives of the College. Previously, Newcomb was Professor and Chair of the Department of Agricultural Education at Ohio State.

He is an agricultural educator. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University.

Newcomb is a noted classroom teacher specializing in methods of teaching agricultural subject matter. He has published extensively and is frequently a speaker at professional and civic meetings. For the last fifteen years, he has held a number of administrative/leadership positions at The Ohio State University. He has filled all the elected positions in the Academic Programs Section of the Board on Agriculture Assembly of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges.

He was co-leader of Project Reinvent, a W. K. Kellogg funded project. This

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visioning/organizational change effort created an environment through which College faculty, staff, and external constituents examined together current organizational culture and practices. Once desired changes were identified, new practices, policies, and working relationships were developed to move the College and those it serves toward the future they have defined.

In his role as holder of the Price Chair, Newcomb leads special efforts to further enhance learning in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences. The Price Chair is made possible by a gift from the late William H. Price II of Cody, Wyoming and Perrysburg, Ohio to honor his father Sanford G. "Sandy" Price and aunt Isabelle Price Barbee.

The student address will be given by Esther M. Rupp, the recipient of this year's Director's Award, which recognizes Ohio State ATI's most outstanding student. Rupp will graduate June 9 with an Associate of Science degree in dairy Science. Rupp is a resident of Seville.

Rupp was named to the Director's List in each of her academic quarters at ATI and is a president of ATI's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. She is the recipient of numerous scholarships, including the National Dairy Shrine Iager Dairy Scholarship, COBA Scholarship, Kendal Scholarship, Castor Memorial Scholarship, and the National Holstein Women's Scholarship.

She has served as an academic mentor, leading student groups in economics, dairy milk production, and dairy health. She is vice president of the ATI Dairy Club, president of the Ohio Junior Holstein Association, past president of the Norwayne FFA Chapter and 4-H Club, a member of the Norwayne FFA Alumni, and serves as a music volunteer for Hospice and Palliative Care of Greater Wayne County.

Rupp completed an internship at Spring Hill Farm in Big Prairie, Ohio. She plans to complete a

Bachelor of Science degree in animal science or pre-vet, with the goal of becoming a large animal veterinarian.

Ohio State ATI, located in Wooster, Ohio, is ranked number one in the nation in the awarding of associate degrees in agriculture and related sciences. It is an associate degree-granting program within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University. Students participate in a curriculum that includes general and basic studies, hands-on experience and a paid industry internship. Ohio State ATI is the largest institution of its kind in the U.S., enrolling approximately 800 students and offering 29 programs of study. Ohio State ATI maintains a 99 percent job placement rate for all graduates within four months of graduation.