



Outstanding
Ag Ed
Teacher

Neil Pearson

Willmar

"I teach students, not just curriculum. Students do not care how much you know unless you show them that you care about them as a person and not just a letter in the gradebook."

Overview

- Willmar has 500 students enrolled in the Agriculture Education program.
- There are 25 classes offered that fall into pathways such as Ag Mechanics, Ag Physics, Plant Science, Environmental Science, Ag Technology and Animal Systems.
- Neil believes that hands on learning is the best way to teach and engage students in learning.

Experiential Learning

- 8 Sponsored students that participate in the John Deere program and 2 sponsored in the diesel mechanics program.
- Neil's students raised the Turkey for the State and National ceremonies for Thanksgiving
- Incorporates SAE within School through SAE, 30 acres of CRP, the apple orchard, and renting land.

Professional Growth

- Neil served in numerous leadership roles and officer positions within MAAE.
- Within NAAE, Neil served on the public policy committee and was a policy lobby delegation in Washington DC
- Neil has also served on the MnACTE, MAELC and MN FFA Adult boards.

Student Organizations

- 99 total State Degrees, 4 National Proficiency Winners, 12 Regional officers, 17 State Proficiency Winners, 4 State Officers and 10 National CDE Teams
- Neil is most proud of his Ag Mechanics team which has been top 5, 18 times at State and Winning 8 State Titles

Partnerships

- Numerous local business partnerships through student employment, work placement and financial support to the chapter.
- Developed a manufacturing class between the Ag and Industrial tech department and businesses such as Relco, Chapel Central, West Central Steel, Nova Tech, Dunnick Inc and Life Science Innovations.

"The unique melding of personal and professional qualities has enabled Mr. Pearson to lead colleagues and students into favorable involvement in Ag Education. It has allowed him to share with others his belief in the importance of agriculture and its role in society." -Neil Schendel- Assistant Principal

2018 MAAE Award Winner