

Keynote Address



DR. RICK RIGSBY Keynote Speaker

Dr. Rick Rigsby is President and CEO of Rick Rigsby Communications. Through motivational speaking, corporate coaching, books and blogs, Rick encourages and empowers audience members to become great people who do great things.

The San Francisco native is a former award-winning journalist, who followed a television news career with six years of graduate school—culminating with a Ph. D. from the University of Oregon. A college professor for two decades, Rick spent most of those years at Texas A&M University, where he also served as character coach and chaplain for the Aggies football team.

Dr. Rigsby now devotes his full attention to empowering people worldwide—from presenting leadership principles in Nigeria to speaking to Fortune 500 companies in the Americas, Europe and Canada. In high demand among educational, business and service organizations and a favorite among professional sports organizations including the National Football League and the PGA, Rick offers common-sense wisdom to those desiring to rise to greater levels of excellence.

Throughout his three decades in broadcasting and academe, Rick Rigsby has received numerous commendations and awards, including being named a two-time recipient of the prestigious Outstanding Teaching Award by Texas A&M University's College of Liberal Arts.

In addition to academic publications, Dr. Rigsby is the author of *Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout*—the story of timeless common-sense wisdom learned from his father.

See Dr. Rigsby speak during
the First General Session on
Monday, April 18th.

Special Presenter



BILL NORTHEY Iowa Secretary of Agriculture

Secretary Bill Northey is an Iowa farmer that grows corn and soybeans on his farm near Spirit Lake. He started farming with his grandfather, Sid Northey, after graduating from Iowa State University in 1981.

Sworn in January of 2007, Northey ran on a platform of expanding opportunities in renewable energy, promoting conservation and stewardship, and telling the story of Iowa agriculture. Northey was reelected in 2010 for a second term.

Northey also believes in agricultural service by serving as a co-chair with Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds for the Iowa Food and Family Project. This group strives to promote agricultural literacy in addition to supporting initiatives such as the Meals from the Heartland Service Project at the Iowa FFA Leadership Conference.

As Secretary, Northey has committed to traveling to each of Iowa's 99 counties to hear from farmers and rural residents with a stake in the future of agriculture. These meetings allow him to listen to their needs and better lead the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship as it seeks to improve the people of the state.

See Mr. Northey speak during
the Second General Session on
Tuesday, April 19th.

Special Presenter



ABRAH MEYER 2015- 2016 National FFA Central Region Vice President

Originally from Readlyn, Iowa, and an agricultural business major at Iowa State University, Meyer is a member of the Alpha Phi Sorority, National Agri-Marketing Association, National Society of Collegiate Scholars the Block and Bridle Club and Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow.

Within FFA, she served as the Iowa president, secretary and Northeast Iowa FFA district vice president. While a member of the Wapsie Valley FFA in high school, she served as the chapter president and secretary and also played varsity volleyball, basketball, softball and track. Her supervised agricultural experiences included working as an educational assistant, providing agricultural services at a grocery store and serving as a township cemetery landscaper.

Upon graduation from college, Meyer plans to work through geo-political issues related to hunger on a global scale and develop a non-profit, student-led organization similar to FFA in South Africa.

See Abrah speak during
the Third General Session on
Tuesday, April 19th.

Join Abrah at her workshops on
Monday, April 18th at 11:00 AM in
Scheman 240 and Tuesday, April
19th at 10:00 AM in Scheman 220.