

## Keynote Address



# MANDY HARVEY

## Keynote Speaker

Her message is universal... Hope, Dream, Believe, no matter what. Mandy Harvey is a deaf American singer-songwriter. A Vocal Music Education major at Colorado State University, Mandy lost her residual hearing in 2006-2007 at age eighteen due to a connective tissue disorder, and left the program. She pursued several career options, including education, but returned to music in 2008. She quickly became a regular performer at several esteemed venues.

Mandy's impact and message of hope, dream, and believe can be seen through her appearances on America's Got Talent having reached the finals as a Golden Buzzer Winner, and in addition, CNN's Great Big Story captured over 10 million hits on social media, Burt's Bees signed her up for their "Remarkable Women" campaign, NBC Nightly News profiled her, and she has started performing at the world's most prestigious clubs, concert stages, and festivals.

Mandy just released her first book title; Sensing the Rhythm, Finding My Voice In a World Without Sound published by Howard Books/Simon & Schuster, with a message of helping others to realize their dreams and pursue their hopes. As an Ambassador for No Barriers USA, she travels the country to heighten awareness, break down blocks, challenge stereotypes, and lead the change toward a brighter future for all. The music is still alive and well within her, and although her hearing loss is profound, her timing, pitch, and passion are perfect. With support from her friends, family, and faith, Mandy continues to find joy in the music

"Always remember to 'Try'!"

*See Mandy speak during  
the First General Session on  
Monday, April 23rd.*

**Special Presenter**



**MIKE NAIG**  
Iowa Secretary of  
Agriculture

Mike Naig grew up on a family farm in the northwest corner of the state near Cylinder, Iowa. Early in his life, Mike learned the value of hard work by helping his dad and uncle run their crop and livestock farm. He continues to be involved in the operation today.

On March 1, 2018, Governor Kim Reynolds announced her intention to appoint Mike to succeed Bill Northey as Iowa Secretary of Agriculture.

As Secretary, he is committed to leading efforts to protect consumers, expanding economic opportunities for Iowans and advocating in Iowa and around the globe on behalf of the hard-working men and women who keep us fed and fueled.

Before joining the Department, Mike had been active in the agribusiness industry for more than 13 years, having served in public policy roles for state and national trade associations and in private industry.

Mike is a graduate of Buena Vista University in Storm Lake with degrees in biology and political science. He and his wife Jaime have three boys.

*See Mr. Naig speak during the  
Second General Session on  
Tuesday, April 24th.*

## Special Presenter



## ERICA BAIER 2017- 2018 National FFA Secretary

Originally from the Earlham FFA Chapter in Iowa, Erica Baier is serving as the National Secretary. Baier is majoring in agricultural education at Iowa State University, she is involved with the Iowa State National Agri-Marketing Association, intramural basketball, and the Salt Company Campus Ministry. During high school, she served as Earlham FFA Vice President, Earlham FFA President, and the Iowa FFA Association South Central State Vice President.

For her supervised agricultural experience, she raised pumpkins for a Vegetable Production Entrepreneurship, and helped maintain the family farm with her Beef Production Placement SAE. Erica won several proficiency awards for her SAE projects while in high school.

Upon graduating from college, Baier plans to pursue a career as an agricultural education teacher or develop curriculum for leadership programs.

*See Erica speak during  
the Third General Session on  
Tuesday, April 24th.*

*Join Erica at her workshops on  
Monday, April 23rd at 1:00 PM  
and Tuesday, April 24th at 9:00 AM  
in Scheman 230.*