

# 2020's Distinguished Service Awardees

## **Trever Meachum**

### *Distinguished Service to Agriculture and Natural Award - 2020*

An MSU alumnus with a bachelor's degree in horticulture, Meachum has been a leader in the agricultural community and strong supporter of MSU and CANR for many years. He is production manager for High Acres Fruit Farm, a 5,500-acre fruit and vegetable cash crop farm in Van Buren County that he farms with his parents and brothers. He continues to support the university in many ways, including working with a number of faculty and researchers to provide access to his fields for various research trials. Currently, he is a member of the advisory boards for both the Trevor Nichols and the Southwest Michigan Research and Education Centers contributing to their strategic planning efforts. In addition, he annually hosts the Department of Horticulture graduate student tour visit of Michigan horticulture.

He has dedicated his time and personal resources to advance the fruit and vegetable industries and share with others the benefit of Michigan's diverse agriculture. He was instrumental in working through the merger of the Michigan Vegetable Council Show and the Michigan State Horticulture Society's Hort Show to create the Great Lakes Fruit and Vegetable Expo. In addition, he served as treasurer of the International Fruit Tree Association, where he regularly travels overseas to attend their annual tour to learn novel production and marketing ideas. When the tour was held in Michigan, he helped organize it and presented on the state's industry.

Meachum has volunteered for the Michigan Plum Advisory Board, the Michigan Agriculture Cooperative Association Apple Committee, Michigan Apple Research Committee, the Michigan Vegetable Council and the Michigan Processing Apple Growers. He is also an active Michigan Farm Bureau member and has served as president of the Van Buren County Farm Bureau. Currently, he serves on the Michigan Food and Beverage Council Board and is a past chair of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development, where he was appointed as a member in 2012. In this role, he ensured Michigan's specialty crops are represented in important decision-making. He also serves as secretary for the Hartford Township Planning Commission.

## **Frank Ettawageshik**

### *Distinguished Service to Agriculture and Natural Award - 2020*

Ettawageshik served eight years on [Michigan State University Extension's Great Lakes Leadership Academy](#) (GLLA) Board of Governors and was instrumental in developing the curriculum for the Leadership Advancement Program. He recruited Native American Leaders for both GLLA programs, thus implementing a succession plan for Native American Leaders and designing a legacy of collaboration on natural resources and other concerns. As a patient and tenacious teacher of the value of leading across differences, Ettawageshik continued to bring values of diversity, equity and inclusion to the GLLA Board.

Currently, Ettawageshik is director of the United Tribes of Michigan. Previously, he served 16 years in tribal elected office, including 14 years as chair of his tribe, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. During his tenure, he built alliances between his own tribe's government, local regional governments, and the State of Michigan to further the Odawas' resource protection agenda. As a leader in the National Congress of the American Indian, he has encouraged tribes throughout the country to build similar liaisons and helped them accomplish their goals.

With over 40 years of public service, he has served on numerous state, national and international boards, including the National Congress of American Indians, Association on American Indian Affairs, Anishinaabemowin Teg and the Michigan Indian Education Council. He has demonstrated his knowledge of issues relating to natural resource use and protection. He authored the "Tribal and First National Great Lakes Water Accord," collecting signatures for this agreement. As a representative of indigenous peoples at the United Nations, he has continued to build his international reputation as a protector of the environment and champion of First Nations' access.

Ettawageshik has been honored for his service with Clean Water Action Michigan's 2007 Great Lakes Guardian of the Year Award, and as a 2010 fellow at the Native Nations Institute Indigenous Leaders Fellowship Program at the University of Arizona.

