

For Immediate Release

Mari Johnson Wins National Agricultural Employer Award

March 10, 2023

For more information contact Annie Burnett 434-277-5455

On January 31, 2023, at the National Council of Agricultural Employers 59th Annual Meeting, Mari Johnson, Human Resources Assistant at Saunders Brothers, Inc., won the “Doing Good” award. NCAE’s description of the award says, “People involved in U.S. agriculture are truly the best of America and we want to recognize how truly awesome they are. We will be identifying one member who is making a positive difference in their community...”

Mari Johnson has been working at Saunders Brothers for 7 years and has been a valuable member of the Human Resources team for 5 years. As Human Resources Assistant, Mari advertises and accepts all applications for employment for the company. In addition, Mari oversees all aspects of the Foreign Labor (H2A) program including getting workers onboard and assisting workers in getting drivers licenses and Social Security cards.

According to Jim Saunders, Chief of Human Resources at Saunders Brothers, “Mari Johnson is one of the most dedicated and committed employees that we have ever had. Mari is like a mother to our workers and works tirelessly to make sure that all of them have their needs met. She enjoys assisting them in getting drivers licenses, cell phones, internet access, and is so helpful with getting transportation home to Mexico. She makes sure that they are all healthy and checks on them when they are sick. She truly hates to see them leave for Mexico at the end of every season, but anxiously awaits their arrival in February when she takes them under her wing for another year. She enjoys getting to know as many of the workers as possible and wants to keep tabs on their growing families and family news.” Her compassion does not stop at the home front. Annie Saunders Burnett, Human Resources Manager, says that Mari is instrumental in hiring the right people for open positions at Saunders Brothers. “Mari is the first point of contact for any potential employee. Her sunny personality helps project our family-oriented work atmosphere, reflecting the company as a friendly and positive place to work. Mari reminds us that we need to hire people that buy into the Core Values and are passionate about agriculture and beautifying and feeding the world.”

Saunders Brothers is excited that NCAE selected Mari Johnson for the “Doing Good” award. Her enthusiasm to care for her work family and her passion for agriculture make such a positive difference in the community. Burnett says “We are proud to have her leading our company in recruiting new staff members and caring for those that are already dedicated members of our team.”

Established in 1964, NCAE Members are farmers & ranchers involved with labor intensive agricultural production, associations, and others whose business interests revolve around agricultural employer issues. NCAE advocates legislation, regulation, and federal policies to keep American agricultural employers ethically and economically viable and sustainable in the global marketplace.