

Katherine Koudele

John Nevins Andrews Medallion

May 8, 2022



This afternoon, the recipient of the John Nevins Andrews Medallion is Katherine Koudele, whose passionate leadership in her discipline has distinguished her among her colleagues.

Koudele earned her BA in biology from Andrews University in 1979 and her MS in biology in 1983, also from Andrews. She went on to earn her PhD in animal science at Michigan State University.

Koudele joined the Andrews University faculty in 1995 and served as associate professor of animal science and pre-veterinary professional advisor until 2006. During this time she also co-managed the Andrews University Dairy until 2013. Koudele has now served as professor of animal science since 2006 and as chair of the Department of Sustainable Agriculture since 2016.

Over the years, Koudele spearheaded several development projects, such as modifying curriculum in response to changing requirements and best practices, increasing online communication with advisees and students, and developing online resources for the department.

Koudele was key in championing the formation and subsequent vibrancy of the Department of Sustainable Agriculture, which emphasizes the utilization of environmentally sustainable practices with a focus on stewardship of the earth's resources. One of the department's signature programs is the animal science program, from which many enrolled students go on to veterinary school. A few years ago, with the formal closure of the Andrews Dairy echoing similar decisions throughout the dairy industry for operations of comparable size, the agriculture program was at risk because the Dairy's cows were integral to the curriculum. Koudele was not deterred. She secured funding, both internally and externally, to start an Agriculture Education Center that has an array of animals—large and small—and incorporated that into the animal science curriculum. Because of the vast array of animals students are now exposed to, the animal science program is even stronger academically.

Koudele has positively impacted the wider campus as well, through her service on multiple committees, including the Institutional Animal Use Committee, Conduct Appeals Committee and Honors Council.

She also actively participates in local 4-H clubs and the county youth fair. She and her students have visited inner city areas as well as nursing homes with farm animals and pets for educational and entertainment purposes.

For her creativity and positive advocacy for her students and discipline, the faculty of Andrews University is proud to present Katherine Koudele with the John Nevins Andrews Medallion.