

## **Sunkist Young Designer Award**

**Brian M. Huenink**



**Brian M. Huenink**, is the 2017 recipient of the Sunkist Young Designer award for outstanding technical knowledge in equipment design, encouraging professional and community leadership.

Huenink is a staff engineer with the John Deere Product Engineering Center in Waterloo, Iowa and the owner of Huenink's Seed and Dairy, LLC in Cedar Grove, Wisconsin. He is on the product design team for future 8R tractors and he is a system engineer for future tractor lighting.

Huenink's career has demonstrated his personal connection to agriculture; he brings a unique perspective of an equipment user to his designs. While pursuing his graduate degree, Huenink started his design career by developing unique sensor systems to measure yield on forage harvesting equipment, systems now key to commercial forage yield monitoring. Huenink was responsible for design efforts of the innovative 7R tractor that won numerous awards, including a 2012 AE50 award and a 2013 AE50 Silver award. He continued work on the 7R program to redesign intake and exhaust for increased power while meeting more stringent Final Tier 4 emissions regulations. He later completed a mid-program redesign of the 9R Final Tier 4 exhaust system.

Huenink believes strongly in his responsibility to engage and inspire peers and students in the agricultural and biological engineering field. Huenink has been involved in the ASABE

International ¼ Scale Tractor Student Design Competition since it was first established in 1997, first as a student, and now as a volunteer and committee member for the competition. He has worked to promote the student competition and authored an article about it in Resource magazine.

A 20 year member of ASABE, Huenink has been involved in many ASABE committees and events. He has worked on the Agricultural Equipment Technology Conference since 2004, most recently as a chair. Huenink is also a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers, the Farm Bureau, and has served on the University of Wisconsin-Madison Biological Systems Engineering advancement committee. Huenink has been inducted into many honor societies, including Phi Theta Kappa, Tau Beta Pi, Golden Key, and Gamma Sigma Delta.

Huenink is listed as sole inventor or coinventor on two US patents. Throughout his career, Huenink has received many awards including several section awards from the ASABE Iowa and Wisconsin sections. He received the John Deere Innovation award for his work on the 7R Auxiliary Drive. Huenink has been recognized by his alma mater, University of Wisconsin – Madison, when he was an invited speaker for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) scholarship reception and as a featured alumnus in the CALS *Grow* magazine.