

NEWS RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BROWN AND SIMON RECOGNIZED AS 2015 NATIONAL TEACH AG CHAMPIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Each year, the National Teach Ag Campaign recognizes individuals who go above and beyond to raise awareness of the need to recruit and retain quality and diverse agriculture teachers, encourage others to teach agriculture and celebrate the positive contributions that agriculture teachers make in their schools and communities. These individuals are Teach Ag Champions.

Dr. Steve Brown and Ms. P.J. Simon have been selected as the 2015 National Teach Ag Champions. Both Brown and Simon were recognized at the 2015 National Teach Ag Day live celebration in Washington, D.C., on September 24th.

Dr. Brown was selected as a Teach Ag Champion because of the active role he plays in advocating for agricultural education at the national level. He works tirelessly to promote teaching agriculture as a career choice as the Education Program Specialist at the United States Department of Agriculture and as the National FFA Advisor. A former agriculture teacher and state staff person in Missouri, Dr. Brown understands the importance of addressing the national agriculture teacher shortage. His experience and influence in the profession allows him to successfully advocate for agricultural education to key stakeholders and leaders.

Simon was selected as a Teach Ag Champion because of her passion for integrating science into agricultural education and support for teacher professional development. As Manager of K-12 Academic Outreach at the DuPont Center for Philanthropy and Education, she believes agriculture teachers are the most important factors in inspiring young people to explore career opportunities in agriscience. Simon continually celebrates the accomplishments of agriculture teachers through various endeavors, such as the DuPont National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador Academy. Beyond her job, Simon personally advocates for agriculture teachers, often referring to the ambassadors as “her” teachers, because she is so proud of them and the things they accomplish.

Both Dr. Brown and Simon continually promote agricultural education as a promising career choice. They understand that agriculture teachers are a necessary component to educating our future generations as well-informed consumers and leaders. It is thanks to great advocates like Dr. Brown and Simon that agricultural education continues to grow and thrive.

The National Teach Ag Campaign is an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. It is funded by the CHS Foundation, DuPont Pioneer, and Growth Energy as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The National Teach Ag Campaign raises awareness of the need to recruit and retain quality and diverse agriculture teachers,

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encourages others to consider a career teaching agriculture and celebrates the positive contributions that agriculture teachers make in their schools and communities. www.naae.org/teachag

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