

National Teach Ag Campaign

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FUTURE AGRISCIENCE TEACHERS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM AT NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATORS' CONVENTION

Lexington, KY – The National Teach Ag Campaign has selected 34 agricultural education majors from across the nation to receive scholarships to attend the Future Agriscience Teacher (FAST) symposium, as a part of the National Association of Agricultural Educators' (NAAE) annual convention in San Antonio, Texas, this November. The FAST Symposium is a professional development, networking, and mentoring experience for preservice agricultural education majors.

The selected students will participate in a five-day event that will focus on creating an inclusive classroom environment, inquiry-based learning, classroom management, professional development, and collegiality. Along with this exclusive preservice professional development and networking experience, the FAST participants will also be able to attend the business sessions and additional professional development offered during the NAAE Convention.

As a component of the National Teach Ag Campaign, the FAST symposium provides preservice agriculture teachers with essential training and support for practical application of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills in the context of agriculture, for success in their future classrooms. FAST participants will receive professional development that will enable them to provide their future students with advanced skills and knowledge for future careers in the ever-advancing agriculture industry.

“The key factors influencing teacher retention and job satisfaction are quality professional development and purposeful mentoring,” said Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign Project Director. “The FAST symposium provides opportunities for both at the pre-service level in a dynamic and professional learning atmosphere surrounded by teacher leaders and role models.”

The 34 scholarship recipients are: Skyler Alexander, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College; Corey Alleman, Louisiana State University; Callahan Anderes, Oregon State University; Peyton Arthur, Louisiana State University; Olivia Aten, Pennsylvania State University; Rachel Bloom, Pennsylvania State University; Lisa Boltz, Pennsylvania State University; Molly Bull, Purdue University; Manny Catala, Pennsylvania State University; Courtney Cederloff, Utah State University; Gabrielle Cultra, Iowa State University; Ethan Dado, University of Minnesota; Emily Dean, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural

College; Makenna Hanson, Oregon State University; Victoria Herr, Pennsylvania State University; Sara Lang, Pennsylvania State University; Sarah Larson, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College; Chad Lewis, University of Tennessee at Martin; Cody McClain, Ohio State University; Brenda Morales, Texas State University; Abby Motter, Ohio State University; James Renshaw, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College; Shelbie Rochel, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Ryan Ruppert, Pennsylvania State University; Elisa Russ, Iowa State University; Amanda Serven, Oregon State University; Trinity Shodin, Oregon State University; Kayla Stauffer, Pennsylvania State University; Stephanie Swope, New Mexico State University; Madeleine Tanis, Washington State University; Jacob Timm, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Megan Whited, Washington State University; Elizabeth Winklosky, Pennsylvania State University; Anna Williamson, Kansas State University. In addition to the scholarship attendees, 54 others will be attending via university support or at their own expense.

The National Teach Ag Campaign is a project of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. Funding for the National Teach Ag Campaign is provided by the CHS Foundation, Corteva Agriscience™ Agriculture Division of DowDuPont™, BASF, Herman & Bobbie Wilson, and Growth Energy, as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. The campaign is designed to raise awareness of the need to recruit and retain high quality and diverse agriculture teachers, encourage others to consider a career teaching agriculture, and celebrate the positive contributions that agriculture teachers make in our schools and communities. For more information about the National Teach Ag Campaign, visit www.naae.org/teachag.

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