

National Teach Ag Campaign

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NEWS RELEASE

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ELEVEN FUTURE AGRICULTURE TEACHERS SELECTED FOR NATIONAL TEACH AG AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The National Teach Ag Campaign is pleased to announce its selection of 11 future agriculture teachers to serve as the 2018-2019 National Teach Ag Ambassadors. Beginning this summer, the ambassadors will participate in training that will prepare them to advocate for agricultural education at the 91st National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, October 24-27. The ambassadors will represent the National Teach Ag Campaign at the convention by encouraging students who stop by the Teach Ag booth to become agriculture teachers in the future. As the ambassadors engage with the students and teachers who visit the booth, they will develop a cohort of current and future agriculture teachers, who they will keep in contact with throughout their year of service to inspire the next generation of leaders, problem solvers, entrepreneurs and agriculturalists.

The National Teach Ag Ambassador Program was developed as an effort to address the current demand for agriculture teachers nationwide. The need for agriculture teachers in the United States remains high due to retirements, current program growth, new programs opening, and current teachers who leave the profession to explore other opportunities. The ambassadors work to promote the need for high-quality and diverse agriculture teachers while at National FFA Convention and throughout the year.

Beyond their duties at the National FFA Convention, the ambassadors will work with agricultural education leaders in their states to promote the mission of the National Teach Ag Campaign, by encouraging high school and postsecondary students to consider a career in teaching agriculture. The ambassadors will use several different outlets to accomplish this task; including social media, email, workshops, booths, and presentations. Through these various opportunities, the ambassadors will build their own professional networks and develop leadership and communications skills they will need in their future careers as agriculture teachers.

“The ambassador program creates unique opportunities to connect those considering teaching agriculture as a career, with those majoring in agricultural education, and current agriculture teachers,” said Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign Project Director. “It is one of our most successful programs as it combines mentoring, recruitment, and preservice professional development.”

The 11 National Teach Ag Ambassadors for the 2018-2019 academic year are Abigail Chambers, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore; Belmary Pagan Galarza, North Carolina A&T University; Courtney Herrera, Texas A&M University; Brianna Lammers, Purdue University; Chad Lewis, University of Tennessee-Martin; Maggie Martens, Oklahoma State University; Rebekka Paskewitz, South Dakota State University; Gabby Power, Southwest Minnesota State University; MaKayla Rose, Morehead State University; Hailey Walmsley, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Megan Whited, Washington State University.

The National Teach Ag Campaign is an initiative 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 an awareness of the need to recruit and retain high quality and diverse agriculture teachers, encourage others to consider a career as an agriculture teacher, and celebrate the positive contributions that agriculture teachers make in our schools and communities. For more information about the National Teach Ag Campaign, visit <http://www.naae.org/teachag>.



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