

National Teach Ag Campaign

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FUTURE AGRISCIENCE TEACHERS SELECTED TO ATTEND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SYMPOSIUM AT NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY

Lexington, KY – The National Teach Ag Campaign has selected 17 agricultural education majors from across the country to attend the Future Agriscience Teacher (FAST) symposium as a part of the National Teach Ag Day celebration in September. This group of future agriscience educators will spend three days receiving professional development that will help them in their future careers as classroom agriculture teachers. The symposium will include training in inquiry-based classroom instruction, classroom management techniques, and the development of engaging agricultural curriculum to promote and enhance the science in agriculture. The FAST participants will also be a part of the live National Teach Ag Day celebration that will take place on Thursday, September 21, 2017 from the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences (CHAS), in Chicago, Ill., from 1-3pm EDT.

The FAST Symposium is a component of the National Teach Ag Campaign, an initiative 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 their schools and communities. The FAST symposium provides essential training and support to equip future agriscience teachers with 21st century science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills through practical application in the context of agriculture.

“We are working diligently to fill the demand for high quality agriculture teachers across the nation,” said Ellen Thompson, National Teach Ag Campaign Project Director. “Initiatives like the FAST symposium are a great opportunity to equip our future agriscience teachers with the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their own classrooms.”

National Teach Ag Day is a nationwide celebration that encourages others to consider a career teaching agriculture while recognizing the contributions that agriculture teachers make in our schools and communities. Agriculture teachers are key to developing essential life skills in students so that they will be successful problem solvers, leaders, entrepreneurs and agriculturalists. To log on to the live webcast, or for resources to help you plan your local Teach Ag Day celebration, visit naae.org/teachag.

The 17 selected participants are: Matthew Anguiano, Kansas State University; Katie Compton, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Taylor Cooper, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Elizabeth Daney, Virginia Tech; Caitlyn Gitchell, University of

Tennessee-Martin; Don Groce, Texas A&M University; Anna Hall, Purdue University; Amber Johnson, Oklahoma State University; Sarah Landis, Ohio State University; Chad Lewis, University of Tennessee-Martin; Chelsey Schnider, University of California-Davis; Justine Selk, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Haley Sherman, Ohio State University; India Titus, West Virginia University; Claire Waggoner, University of Kentucky; and Courtney Walker, University of Illinois.

The National Teach Ag Campaign is an initiative of the National Council for Agricultural Education, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. The CHS Foundation, DuPont Pioneer, Growth Energy, and BASF as a special project of the National FFA Foundation fund the campaign. 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 their schools and communities. For more information about the National Teach Ag Campaign, visit www.naae.org/teachag.

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