



Agricultural Education,
Technology & Innovation

STUDENT TEACHER SHOWCASE

2023 - 2024



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PREFACE

The Agricultural Education, Technology and Innovation Department contributes to the College's unique role as a leader in the University's land-grant mission by providing an array of programs in formal undergraduate and graduate instruction, research, and service to enable the people of Arizona, the nation, and beyond to improve the quality of their lives.

The strength of the Department is firmly grounded in its nationally and internationally recognized faculty, who in a positive and proactive manner, are committed to educational excellence and to addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by the current climate of change within the College, the University, the nation, and the world.

We engage the leadership of the future in Agricultural Education by providing a better quality of life through a knowledge base in agricultural technology management, formal and non-formal education, and leadership for our students, the people of Arizona, and society.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert M. Torres". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Torres" clearly legible.

Dr. Robert Torres, AETI Professor
rtorres1@arizona.edu

SAMANTHA SALDAÑA



Current Academic Path

Current Graduate Student and
Graduate Teaching Assistant

Email

scsaldana@arizona.edu

Phone Number

623-824-4540

Why teach agriculture?

I believe that educators in any field make an impact on the lives of their students, but I have never seen a program like an Ag Ed program. The ability to see students grow up for four whole years, the chance to give opportunities to students they may not have otherwise, the opportunity to give students a home, and most importantly, the joy from teaching students about the joys and discomforts of agricultural life. When I say I want to teach to give back, I do not mean that in a general sense. I want to give back because I was given so much by my educators. I feel like the best way I could give back to my teachers is to go and be the happiest and truest version of myself. I cannot see myself being happy unless I am able to offer the same care and consideration to students that was offered to me, and the best place I can see myself doing that is in the Agricultural Education classroom. Building up the next generation of leaders in the most important field in existence is not an easy thing, but it is a challenge I want to face. I know it will be hard, and I know some days I will feel like it's a thankless job, but if I can be what my past teachers were to me to even just one other student, then I will feel like I have given back. I want to care for students because I was cared for. I want to share the knowledge that was shared with me. I want to inspire self sufficiency, because I was inspired. I want to teach, because I was taught.

SAMANTHA SALDAÑA

Education

- Master of Science in Agricultural Education
 - Expected Graduation Date: May 2024
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Teacher Certification Emphasis
 - Graduation Date: May 2023
- Minor in Plant Systems

Relevant Experiences

- Student Teacher Canyon View High School (2023)
 - Supervising Practitioner: Mrs. Kerilyn Brothers
- Graduate Teaching Assistant (2022-2023)
 - AED 496D (CASE AFNR)
 - AED 437 Methods of Facilitating Learning
- Floral Design School (2022-2023)
- Desert Edge FFA Alumni (2019-Present)
- Floriculture Student Chair (2021)
- Harlow Hills Goat Dairy (2021)
- Sigma Alpha Officer (2020-2021)
- AFUHSD CTE Intern (2019-2021)
- Desert Edge FFA Chapter Officer (2016-2019)

Membership of Professional Organizations

- National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Member
- Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association (AATA) Member
- Sigma Alpha Sorority

Activities, Awards, and Honors

- J.R. Cullison Scholar (2019-Present)
- CASE AFNR Provisionally Certified (2022)
- FFA American Degree (2021)

Content Area Specialities

- Floriculture CDE
- Job Interview
 - Resume
- Plant Science
 - Houseplants
 - Hydroponics
 - Floriculture
- Entomology

KEVIN BERRIGAN



Cooperating Center
Snowflake High School

Supervising Practitioner
Mr. Logan Forbis

Email
kjberrigan@arizona.edu

Phone Number
480-292-4469

Why teach agriculture?

I want to become an agriculture educator to teach agriculture to students who may not typically encounter this subject in their educational journey. I aim to teach and raise awareness about the significance of the agricultural industry. I also hope to inspire and guide students in their personal growth and career success by taking on the role of an FFA advisor. My decision to pursue this profession was strongly influenced by my high school agriculture teachers and FFA advisors, who changed my life and inspired my passion. As an agriculture teacher, my duty extends beyond teaching agriculture fundamentals; it is also the task of equipping students with life skills that will benefit them, regardless of their future career paths. I want to ensure that every student acquires a solid foundation in agriculture education, while gaining essential life skills. In this role, I see myself as more than just an educator; I hope to be a role model and source of guidance for students. I believe the purpose of an Agriculture Education program is to educate students about the variety of subjects in agriculture and apply it to skills that are essential for their personal development.



KEVIN BERRIGAN

Education

- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Teacher Certification Emphasis
 - Expected graduation date: May 2024

Relevant Experiences

- Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity President (2023)
- Student Worker at the Agricultural Technology Education Center for the AETI Department (2022-2023)
- Arizona FFA State Staff/Consultant (2020-2022)
- National FFA Officer Nominating Committee (2021)
- Arizona FFA State President (2019-2020)
- Highland FFA Chapter Officer (2016-2019)

Membership of Professional Organizations

- National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Member
- Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association (AATA) Member
- Alpha Gamma Rho – Professional/Social Agriculture Fraternity

Activities, Awards, and Honors

- J.R Cullison Scholar (2019-Present)
- American FFA Degree (2021)
- Arizona Outstanding Youth In Agriculture Award (2019)
- Arizona State FFA Degree (2019)

Content Area Specialities

- Agriculture Mechanics
 - SMAW & GMAW Welding
 - Oxyacetylene
 - Plasma Cutting
- Animal Science
 - Livestock CDE Student Chair
 - Animal Harvesting/Processing Experience
 - Swine Experience
 - Cattle/Calving Experience
- Plant Science (Hydroponics)
- Agricultural Business

PAIGE JOHNSON



Cooperating Center
Desert Edge High School

Supervising Practitioner
Mrs. April Scibienski

Email
pejohnson@arizona.edu

Phone Number
928-580-8074

Why teach agriculture?

I hold teachers and the realm of education to the highest regards. I believe there is little that is more important than investing in younger generations and ensuring they are knowledgeable and compassionate members of society who understand the importance of agriculture and the environment. Agricultural education is a makeup of everything I am passionate about: animals, plants, the environment, hands-on/applicable learning, innovative practices, and personal development. I wholeheartedly believe that successful learning occurs when you provide students with intentional curriculum and opportunities that allow them to apply their knowledge and think critically about the ever changing world around them. My hope as a teacher, above all else, is to help develop young adults who are passionate about learning, care about the world around them, and use their skills to become positive change agents. The vast career opportunities in agriculture, food, and natural resources provides students with secure, viable choices after graduation. Agriculture education programs develop students' professional and technical skills, which can be carried through their career and everyday life. I always knew I wanted to pursue a career that allowed me to create positive change, and I cannot think of a more important task than helping provide young adults with the skills they need to be successful in their personal and professional lives.



PAIGE JOHNSON

Education

- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Teacher Certification Emphasis
 - Expected graduation date: May 2024

Relevant Experiences

- Agricultural Education, Technology and Innovation (AETI) Department Student Worker (2021-Present)
- Undergraduate Teaching Assistant (Spring 2023)
 - AED 450 Total Program Development
- AETI Teach Ag Academy Student Coordinator (2022-2023)
- Employment Skills LDE Student Chair (2021-2023)
- Agriscience Fair Student Chair (2021-2023)
- Arizona FFA State Secretary (2020-2021)
- Yuma District FFA Officer (2018-2020)
- Antelope FFA Officer (2016-2020)

Membership of Professional Organizations

- National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Member
- Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association (AATA) Member

Activities, Awards, and Honors

- J.R. Cullison Scholar (2020-Present)
- American FFA Degree (2023)
- CALES Academic Year Highest Academic Distinction (2023)
- CALES Dean's List with Distinction (2022-2023)
- CALES Academic Honorable Mention (2021)
- Antelope High School A/B Honor Roll (2016-2020)
- Arizona State FFA Degree (2019)

Content Area Specialities

- Employment Skills
- Agriscience Fair
- Plant Science
 - Soils
 - Sustainable Plant Systems
 - Composting
 - Houseplants
- Animal Husbandry

JAY OSTBERG



Cooperating Center
Desert View High School

Supervising Practitioner
Ms. Anna Lawrie

Email
juliaostberg@arizona.edu

Phone Number
(928) 715-9867

Why teach agriculture?

Henry Brooks Adams, a historian and Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, stated, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." E.M. Tiffany, author of the FFA Creed, said: "I believe that American agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task." The part I've chosen in the inspiring task of American agriculture is preparing youth to better our industry and our world. My fullest potential can only be reached when I'm helping students reach theirs.



JAY OSTBERG

Education

- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management and Education Teacher Certification Emphasis
- Minor in Soil and Water Science
 - Expected graduation date: May 2023

Relevant Experiences

- Officer of Intermountain Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls, Residential Education & Leadership Development (2022-2023)
- Prepared Public speaking CDE Judge (2022)
- Employment Skills LDE Volunteer (2022)
- U of A Residence Hall Association President, Residential Education & Leadership Development (2021-2022)
- Ag Mechanics CDE Student Chair (2020)
- Ag Ed CDE Participant (2018-2019)
- Kingman FFA Junior Chapter Officer (2017-2018)
- Parli Pro LDE (2015-2016)

Membership of Professional Organizations

- National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Member
- Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association (AATA) Member

Activities, Awards, and Honors

- J.R. Cullison Scholar (2019-Present)
- CASE AFNR Provisionally Certified (2022)
- Dean's List (2019-Present)
- Ag Ed Exam LDE, 1st place State (2019)
- Ag Ed CDE, 3rd place State (2019)
- Ag Ed CDE, 1st place Black Canyon District (2019)
- FFA Chapter Degree (2019)

Content Area Specialities

- Soils
- Green Infrastructure
- Arid Lands Management
- Permaculture

RYLEE ROCCA



Cooperating Center
Cienega High School

Supervising Practitioner
Ms. Sarah McNall

Email
rmrocca@arizona.edu

Phone Number
559-353-0196

Why teach agriculture?

Agriculture Education got me through my hardest years of life. My agriculture teachers made it possible for me to find my purpose and drive. Participating in leadership development and raising livestock provided me with an outlet for life's challenges. Teaching agriculture allows for you to try and fail, and that was something I appreciated as a student. I want to teach ag because I know the pressure of success. Learning to fail was my biggest life lesson, and had it not been for my ag teachers I would have felt confident in my failure. I want to implement diversity of learning within my classroom and be a support system for students learning to grow and fail. Without agriculture, our world would look very different. Educating the youth of the industry that feeds and clothes them is, in my opinion, the most important job in the world. We need agriculture education to continue growth and innovation within our industry. I hope that my journey within agriculture education leads students to gain life skills and confidence that will reflect in our industry in the generations to come.



RYLEE ROCCA

Education

- Master of Science in Agricultural Education
 - Expected Graduation Date: May 2024
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Leadership and Communication Emphasis
 - Graduation Date: December 2022

Relevant Experiences

- Animal and Comparative Biomedical Sciences Student Worker (2019-2021)
- Fresno Street Saints 4-H Teen Leader (2017-2018)
- Fresno-Central FFA Chapter Officer (2015-2018)
- Fresno County 4-H All-Star (2015-2016)
- Fairmont 4-H Officer (2010-2018)

Membership of Professional Organizations

- National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Member
- Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association (AATA) Member
- Young Farmers and Ranchers (YFNR) Member
- Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Members

Activities, Awards, and Honors

- J.R. Cullison Scholar (2018-Present)
- American FFA Degree (2019)
- Beef Quality Assurance Transportation Certificate (2020)
- California State FFA Degree (2017)
- Food Handler Safety Manager Certificate (2017)

Content Area Specialities

- Animal Science
 - Veterinary Science
 - Large Stock
 - Dairy Cattle
 - Sheep Production
 - Swine Production
 - Horse Evaluation
- Ag Business
- Public Speaking

MARJORIE WELLS



Cooperating Center
Monument Valley High School

Supervising Practitioner
Mrs. Elissa McBride

Email
mwells1@arizona.edu

Phone Number
480-720-3402

Why teach agriculture?

A teacher is where the foundation of success is set up for a student. Growing up, I truly saw the light of each and every one of my educators and appreciated the work they did to help me get where I am today. It takes a special person to be that teacher who makes a difference and impact in students lives. I want to be the person my students feel comfortable and confident to ask for help when needed or share that exciting news to. As I reflect over the last seven years now, I have been able to gain and retain knowledge in areas I never thought of studying before and now I hope to pass on my knowledge and wisdom to the next generation of students who also may not even know what agriculture is either even though it is everything and everywhere in our daily lives. As times change and agriculture technology/practices develop, my goal is to create the next generation of agriculturalists that will continue to make this world a better place whether that is in the classroom, field work, business, animal science, plant science, mechanics, technology, and more. The opportunities are endless.

MARJORIE WELLS

Education

- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Teacher Certification Emphasis
 - Expected graduation date: May 2024

Relevant Experiences

- University of Arizona Housing Residential Assistant (2022-Present)
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension One Herd Symposium Professional Development (2023)
- Insect Discovery Instructor (2023)
- University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Ambassador (2022-2023)
- Arizona State 4-H AmeriCorps Media and Programming (2022-2023)
- AAEC Red Mountain FFA Chapter Officer (2017-2019)
- National Teen Miss Agriculture USA (2019)

Membership of Professional Organizations

- National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Member
- Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association (AATA) Member
- Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS)

Activities, Awards, and Honors

- J.R. Cullison Scholar (2019-Present)
- National FFA Convention Conduct of Meetings Volunteer (2023)
- American FFA Degree (2022)
- Maricopa County 4-H Member of the Year (2019)

Content Area Specialities

- CDE's
 - Veterinary Science, Poultry Evaluation, Livestock Evaluation, Employment Skills, and Informational CDE
- Agriculture Leadership and Business
- Animal Science
 - Intro to Vet, Anatomy and Physiology, Animal Diseases, Handling, Husbandry, Exhibitionation- Companion and Livestock
- Broiler and Layer Poultry Raising
- Agriculture Mechanics
 - Wood Working, Plumbing, Solar



Agricultural Education,
Technology & Innovation