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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.

Dr. Robert Torres, AETI Department Head
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Why teach agriculture?

As an educator, my main goal is to spark a passion for learning inside every single one of my students. This passion is one that is not restricted to my classroom, but one I wish to extend to other classes, higher education courses, and everyday life. As an Agriculture teacher, I have the benefit of instructing an engaging and tactile course compared to the lecture style instruction of most core classes. I have the opportunity to reinforce concepts learned in those core classes through hands-on application in a way that builds confidence and understanding. By providing a learning experience that caters to the dynamic needs of the adolescent mind, my hope is that all of my students will discover the joy of learning and develop a passion for their own education. Once that self-realized passion has been recognized by a student, a whole cascade of personal development is bound to occur. Another added benefit of teaching agriculture is the opportunity to teach a student over the entire course of their high school experience. Being able to observe, encourage, and influence the personal growth of students over the course of four years could be nothing short of fulfilling. And after these four years, agriculture teachers are often able to see how their students are applying themselves beyond high school with the confidence, knowledge, and preparation they developed in their program.
Education
• Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Teacher Certification Emphasis
  ◦ Expected graduation date: May 2021

Relevant Experiences
• Certified in Bovine Artificial Insemination (2020)
• Arizona FFA Member
• Highland FFA Chapter Officer
• Arizona Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Volunteer
• Horse Riding Instructor
• Involvement in Equine Therapy for Special Needs Children

Membership of Professional Organizations
• National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) Member
• UArizona Collegiate Livestock Growers Association Member

Activities, Awards, and Honors
• Top 5 Achieving Members of UArizona Collegiate Livestock Growers Association
• UArizona Collegiate Livestock Growers Association Scholarship Recipient

Content Area Specialities
• Animal Systems
  ◦ Large and Small Livestock Production
• Plant Biology
  ◦ Fundamentals
• Soil Management
Why teach agriculture?

It is truly rewarding and exciting to help others learn something new and is even more exciting when you can explore the topic with them and learn together. This is the reason that I cannot wait to become a teacher. I am thrilled to soon have the rewarding privilege of sharing knowledge with my students every day and expanding their educational and professional horizons. Specifically, I want to be an Agricultural Education teacher because I believe that Ag Education offers students many opportunities that are not available in other educational programs. Ag Education opens students up to the promising field of agriculture that many of them would never have come in contact with. This not only helps students become more informed citizens and consumers, but also connects them with many new career paths. Agricultural Education and other CTE programs directly help students prepare for jobs and set them up for a better future. Thanks to the training I received through my Agricultural Education courses I have been better prepared for my university coursework and have also had the skills necessary to obtain and excel at every job I have had. Just like my Ag Education teachers did for me, I want to set all my students up for success later in life, then have the privilege of watching achieve that success in whatever they commit themselves to.
Education
• Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Teacher Certification Emphasis
  ◦ Expected graduation date: May 2021

Relevant Experiences
• Arizona FFA State Vice President (2017- 2018)
• Roosevelt Family Resource Center Outdoor Classroom Assistant (2019)
• Plant Science Lab Assistant (2018- Present)

Membership of Professional Organizations
• Arizona Agricultural Teachers Association Member
• National Association of Agricultural Educators Member

Activities, Awards, and Honors
• J.R. Cullison Scholar
• Arizona Teacher's Academy Scholarship (2019-2021)
• UArizona Dean's List (2018-2020)
• American FFA Degree Recipient (2019)
• Arizona FFA Workshop Facilitator (2018- 2019)
• Arizona FFA State Forestry Contest Student Chair (2020)
• CASE AFNR, provisionally certified

Content Area Specialities
• Plant Science
• Applied Biological Systems
• Leadership
Why teach agriculture?

Growing up I have always had an interest in becoming a teacher. It was not until high school that I realized I wanted to teach agriculture. In high school, I fell in love with the endless opportunities my agriculture classes provided me with. Growing up in the suburbs of Gilbert, I never imagined that I would have been able to raise livestock and work in a greenhouse. Along with those opportunities, I enjoyed how agriculture classes applied what I was learning in my other classes. I am the type of person that learns best with doing opposed to reading and hearing about concepts, and I hope to make a positive impact on others who learn the same way. I feel that my role as a teacher will allow me to bring opportunities such as raising livestock or working hands-on with plants so students who otherwise would not have the opportunity can now experience it. I feel I will be able to use my experiences and knowledge to help them learn and develop skills that will benefit them in the future. I believe one of the main roles of agriculture education is to help students gain valuable career ready skills. I want to be able to mentor students, be a role model and motivate them to do the best they can in school and allow them to get the most out of their experiences. I want to see students become successful and reach their full potential.
Education
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Teacher Certification Emphasis
  - Expected graduation date: May 2021
- Associates of Arts in Agriculture from Central Arizona College (2019)

Relevant Experiences
- Arizona Farm Bureau Agriculture in the Classroom Intern (2017-2019)
- Campo Verde FFA Alumni Treasurer (2017-2019)
- Arizona FFA Spring Conference Wildlife Student Chair (2020)

Membership of Professional Organizations
- Young Farmers and Ranchers University of Arizona Chapter (2019-Present)
- Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association Member
- National Association for Agriculture Educators Member

Activities, Awards, and Honors
- DEKALB Agricultural Accomplishment (2016)
- CAC's Dean's List (2016-2019)
- American FFA Degree (2018)
- Arizona Teacher's Academy Award Recipient (2019-Present)
- J.R. Cullison Scholarship Award Recipient (2019-Present)

Content Area Specialities
- Animal Science
  - Livestock Production
  - Livestock Management
- Plant Science
  - Greenhouse Management
  - Hydroponics
Cooperating Center
Duncan High School

Supervising Practitioner
Ms. Kayla Sexton-Presley

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Why teach agriculture?
I would like to be an agricultural teacher because I believe in the future of agriculture. I believe that every student should have the opportunity to learn how agriculture works and where their food comes from. I want them to gain leadership skills and be a well-rounded citizen working in any profession they choose. Agriculture is surrounding every little thing we do and I want to be a part of it. Times will continue to change but no matter what there will always be fields to plant, animals to feed, jobs to acquire, and people to meet; and I want to help others achieve their goals.
RAYNA FITE

Education
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Teacher Certification Emphasis
  - Expected graduation date: May 2021

Relevant Experiences
- Certified in Bovine Artificial Insemination

Membership of Professional Organizations
- American Jr. Maine-Anjou Association Member
- Arizona and National FFA Member
- Southern Arizona International Livestock Association Member
- UArizona Collegiate Livestock Growers Association

Activities, Awards, and Honors
- Safford FFA Chapter President
- Arizona FFA State Winning Agronomy Team Member

Content Area Specialities
- Livestock Production
- Livestock Evaluation
- Agricultural Mechanics
Why teach agriculture?

I think teaching agriculture is so much more than the surface value it shows. It brings me a lot of excitement to know that I will have a direct impact on students by teaching them values, leadership skills and knowledge of agricultural practices as well as environmental knowledge that is so important in an ever changing environmental climate. The fact that I get to play a part in their growth in those areas and more brings me a ton of pride.
Education
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Teacher Certification Emphasis
  - Expected graduation date: May 2021
- Central Arizona College
  - Certifications in Firefighting and Emergency Medical Services

Relevant Experiences
- Arizona Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Intern
- Pinal County Junior Livestock Goat Superintendent
- Coolidge High School Agriculture Para Professional
- Arizona Beef Council Ambassador

Membership of Professional Organizations
- Arizona Association FFA Alumni
- Arizona Agricultural Teachers Association

Activities, Awards, and Honors
- National FFA American Degree Recipient
- UArizona Dean's List
- Central Arizona College Dean's List

Content Area Specialities
- Environmental Sustainability
- Natural Resource Management
- Animal Science
Why teach agriculture?

My ultimate goal is to change the lives of people and I've chosen to do that through agriculture education. It takes one person to be a light in someone's life. It takes one person to be a helping hand. It takes one person to change an unmotivated, broken life, and make it brand new. Teachers are those people. We motivate students to do their best, we guide students to success when no one else will, and we are always available to listen. One teacher can change the lives of thousands of students. That is my motivation. But agriculture is my passion. Just like students, it is a subject that will never stop teaching you and it's practical information that students can take with them on any journey they embark on. I know that after college, I will be a teacher, a guide, and a friend to so many students. I want be that person a student needs, but also spread knowledge of agriculture to everyone who sits in my classroom. It just takes one person and I'm ready for it!
Education
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Teacher Certification Emphasis
  - Expected graduation date: May 2021

Relevant Experiences
- Office Specialist, Sr., University of Arizona, Student Engagement & Career Development (2019-Present)
- Independent Student Researcher, University of Arizona School of Plant Sciences (2017)

Membership of Professional Organizations
- National Association of Agricultural Educators
- Student Member Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association
- Student Member Arizona State Association of Parliamentarians
- Student Member National Society of Administrative Professionals
- Professional Membership Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources & Related Sciences
- Member Alpha Sigma Alpha
  - Member & Past Scholarship Chairmen

Activities, Awards, and Honors
- Arizona Teacher’s Academy Award Recipient (2019, 2020)
- J.R. Cullison Scholar (2019, 2020)
- National Association of Agriculture Educators Scholar (2017)
- National FFA American Degree Recipient (2017)
- State Vice President, Arizona Association FFA (2015-2016)

Content Area Specialities
- Agriculture Business Leadership & Communications
- Applied Biological Systems
- Plant Science
Why teach agriculture?

I believe that is important to teach agriculture because of how the industry is essential is for life. Agriculture whether we notice it or not is involved in some way or another with what we do day in and day out. It is important that people get the proper knowledge and understanding of agriculture industry. In every agriculture class you are covering every core subject such as math, science and English. In an agriculture class you get to expand your knowledge from those subjects and apply in hands-on scenarios. I want to be an agriculture educator so that I can help students realize this just as I was able to in my agriculture classes when I was in high school.
Education
• Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology Management and Education: Teacher Certification Emphasis
  ◦ Expected graduation date: May 2021

Relevant Experiences
• Pima County 4-H Extension Youth Development Extern (2018-2020)

Membership of Professional Organizations
• Alpha Gamma Rho - Alpha Pi Member
• Arizona Agriculture Teachers Association Member

Activities, Awards, and Honors
• CASE AFNR, provisionally certified
• J.R. Cullison Scholarship Recipient (2020)
• Arizona State FFA Vice-President (2015-2016)

Content Area Specialities
• Agricultural Mechanics
• Soil Science