

Rookie/Young/Ag Teacher of the Year Application

a. Overview – brief description of the agricultural education program and the community in which the program exists.

The agricultural education program at San Jon consists of large animal science, agricultural mechanics, and typical agricultural classes for 7th through 12th grade students, made of a total of 22 students across five classes. San Jon is a small, rural community. The school has about 100 students K-12. Many of the students transfer from a larger, neighboring community. As a result, many of the students in the agricultural classes have limited background knowledge about agricultural-related topics.

b. Teaching Philosophy – a brief reflective statement of the personal teaching philosophy.

I believe that as students enter college and/or the workforce, they will need to demonstrate self-confidence, cooperation with others, teamwork, speaking skills in small and large groups, and solving problems through analyzing and thinking critically. Instead of providing a lecture and listening type of lesson, I want to encourage students to learn through the process. For example, instead of taking notes during my lecture about the cattle's digestive system, the students create a model that best suits their needs/styles (e.g., colorful poster, 3-D, PowerPoint) and develop a presentation. I believe in providing questions for students to encourage them to think more and analyze the situation instead of relying on my answer. This questioning also encourages other classmates to think and perhaps help other students.

c. Instruction – examples of your effective classroom and laboratory instruction including curricula that is used or has been developed.

One of my favorite things about CEV is the ideas that I get from its activities or projects. Many times I retype the activity/project criteria to meet the needs of my students. I do like that their activity usually provides a bullet list of items for students to fulfill. I also type this into a rubric so that my students are aware of what I will be looking for to help them achieve the desired product. I also created a rubric for students who are learning to weld. After students practiced welding their beads, they would grade their own welding. I found that grading their own work helped them evaluate their progress from the first weld to the last weld of the period, as well as from day to day.

d. Experiential Learning – examples of the accomplishments in getting students involved in work-based learning such as supervised agricultural experience programs, cooperative education, and internships.

With lessons learned in the shop, two students have expressed to extended family members their enjoyment and knowledge gained. The families have given the students more responsibilities, such as fixing fence, welding, or wood work. These students are only donating their time and helping family members.

e. Leadership Development – examples of the accomplishments in developing leadership skills of the students. Students' participation and successes in student organization activities, such as FFA, PAS, and NYFEA but not limited to these organizations may also be included.

Dr. Wagley shared a public speaking activity with my college advisor, Dr. Tarpley, called "Men in the Ranks." This activity quickly allows kids to participate in public speaking and forget about their nerves because we all sound or look goofy doing this activity. They learn how to convey feelings and emotion

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to convince the audience. I love the FFA Creed contest because it allows participants to realize that they are a good person and do the right thing. In fact, the participants are even able to question how to better themselves. At the District Creed contest, San Jon placed first, second, and third in the Greenhand contest and third in the Junior High contest. For District Junior High Public Speaking, we placed first and third. I am extremely proud of the third place Junior High participant. Being on the spectrum, it was not in his favor to look at the judges and talk about one topic for a long period of time; I am proud of his achievements. At the State Junior High contests, a San Jon FFA member placed third and fifth in Prepared Public Speaking and Creed, respectively. The FFA members carry over their leadership skills that we practice into FCA. Aside from FFA, I helped two San Jon seniors practice and hone their interview skills to prepare them for their interview for the Daniels scholarship.

- f. **Professional Growth – examples of how they stay professionally prepared and up-to-date in teaching techniques and technical content including information regarding their participation in professional organizations such as NMAETA, NAAE and programs sponsored by NAAE.**

I am a member of NMAETA and attended the two most recent conferences. I participate in Achieve Excellence-Rising to learn more teaching techniques. Achieve Excellence utilizes *Teach Like a Champion 3.0* (Lemov, 2021) to improve classroom practices with meetings with other schools across the state and meeting regularly with a performance coach within district to evaluate progress.