

## Rookie Ag Teacher of the Year Application

Shyanne Ussery

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

Hobbs FFA is located in southeastern New Mexico also known as “little Texas.” Our program is focused on educating students for their future career paths. Our duty at Hobbs High School is to educate students in a wide variety of skills that will better them for their own personal goals; these include science, communications, leadership, management and technology.

Our community is supportive of our FFA program and they offer help when ever needed. We have focused on building our alumni chapter and bringing their support back into our program. A successful chapter comes from more than just the advisors. It comes from the students, parents, alumni, and the community.

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

My teaching philosophy begins with the teachers’ attitude. I will enter the classroom with a mindful and positive attitude. A teacher should maximize the positive benefits, with dedication, perseverance, and hard work. The students in return will rise to a level of motivation. I inspire to bring an open mind, a positive attitude, and high expectations to my classroom. I will encourage myself to bring consistency, diligence, and warmth to my job in hope to inspire and encourage students in their learning abilities. I will continue to keep an open mind to students’ abilities and change my educational strategies to best fit my classrooms needs.

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

Over the past semester my classes have learned leadership skills and what it takes to be an effective leader. A lesson that went super well is a lesson on how to listen properly. My class was arranged in a circle and each student took time to present information over a topic, while the rest of the class listened. Each student offered their opinion and why listening is important. Now my classes ask constantly to do this practice for multiple other lesson. Their favorite is doing a debate in the circle while practicing their listening skills.

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.

The summer of 2021 was a huge learning curve for myself and my students. I was asked to help run practices for our students showing swine and lambs. Although I have never shown before, I took on this task and I was ready to start the season. I had the pleasure to work with Dr. Swafford and Mr. O’Connor who were once at ENMU. They both helped educate me on different techniques for showing and were always willing to help answer any question I had. I also would watch videos and read any material needed to help the students. By then end of season, a Hobbs FFA student was awarded showmanship champion for swine and we had multiple students who completed successful livestock projects.

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.

- Took 5 students to District LDE’s, 1 student qualified for State Job Interview

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- Advising Floriculture, Food Science, Meat Evaluation, and Produce CDE teams
  - Floriculture and Food Science placed top 10 at Carrizozo
  - Meats placed 11<sup>th</sup> at Carrizozo
- Advising Ag Communication team

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 currently working on my alternative licensure at ENMU. While also being enrolled in college classes, I have participated in 6 hours of continuing educational credits to better myself as an educator. I have attended multiple workshops that Hobbs High Schools has organized for staff. I personally plan on attending NMAETA summer conference and any other trainings that will be offered in the future. After my college classes are done, I will stay up to date with new teaching techniques by participating in workshops and reading scholarly articles. I also follow many ag forums on social media. Knowledge is one thing no one can ever take away from you and I love learning new skills.