### Research shows:

FFA scholarship was crucial to student success.

FFA students select one major and graduate on time.

FFA students working while attending college.

High school agricultural education experience created career pathway.

90%

**87**%

61%

82%

• 1.5 times more prepared than their peers

> • 1.6 times more valuable than athletic students when recruiting

**University leaders say** 

FFA students are:

• 1.13 times more valuable than **National Honor Society students** when recruiting

## University leaders reported:

FFA students graduate faster than other students.

53%

FFA students are more active in collegiate activities.

FFA experience is valuable in deciding on allocation of departmental scholarships.

93%

73%







### **RESULTS:**

FFA scholarship students are more confident in their ability to succeed, feel better prepared than their peers and continue their leadership into the college experience. The majority of them graduate or report continuing to post bachelor degrees. University leaders value these scholarship students, as well as other highly involved FFA students, in their recruitment and allocation of departmental scholarships, which multiplies the scholarship value allocated by the Texas FFA and their support of related sponsors.

This is an initial assessment report regarding the value of agricultural education and FFA program involvement in secondary education student success. As always, the limitations to this report are a consideration, but the value of knowing more about how students in agricultural education graduate, how those receiving FFA scholarships continue in post-secondary education and how university leaders perceive these students, are valuable measures for the entire agricultural education process.

# The Value of Agricultural Science Education and the Texas FFA Association

## Validated Data/Research:

The Texas FFA Foundation, in support of our Texas Agricultural Science Educators and FFA Advisors, funded this research project to collect data on the positive impact of agricultural science education and FFA programming on Texas high school students. Additionally, once collected and reviewed, the Foundation board requested an independent – and respected – review of the data to ensure its validity and accuracy.

Data collected for the report is a summary of the analysis of the 2010 Texas graduation cohort group (306,639 students). An additional data set included 272 previous scholarship recipients and leaders at 15 Texas recruitment universities. The data includes comparisons in success rates of students in agriculture education classes, the perceived value of scholarship support for secondary education and university leader feedback on students involved in FFA programs.

The Texas FFA Foundation is honored to provide this report for all Texans. Agricultural education students, FFA members, teachers, administrators, counselors, parents and sponsors can be proud of their involvement in a program that makes Texas a better place to live, work and raise families. We do have A Mission that Matters.

Developed by Roger D. Hanagriff, Ph.D, Texas A&M University, Randall Williams, Ph.D., Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Kayla Box, Graduate Student Texas A&M University-Kingsville

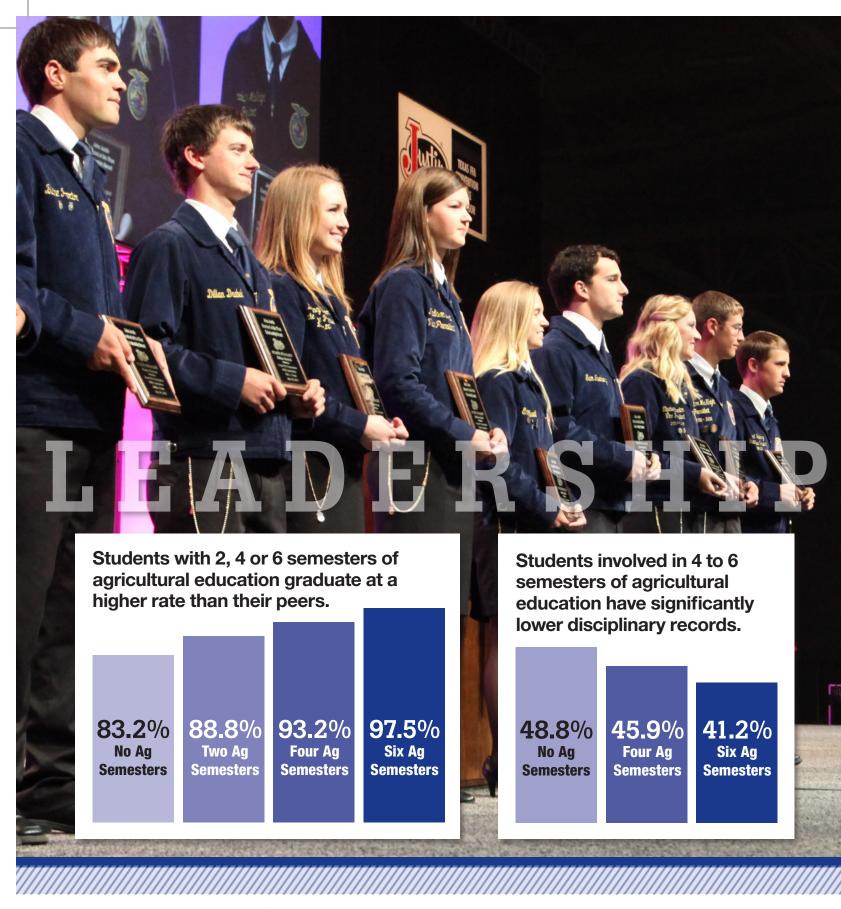


Students involved in just two semesters of agricultural education graduate at a significantly higher rate.

FFA scholarship students are more **confident** in their ability to succeed in college.

University leaders **value** FFA students in their recruitment and allocation of scholarships.

EXCELLENCE



#### INDEPENDENT REVIEW/VALIDATION FROM FINIS WELCH, PH.D.

"It was an honor for me to review the data, data sets and outcomes derived from the Agricultural Education/FFA research project conducted by Roger D. Hanagriff, Randall Williams and Kayla Box. Upon my review, I offer my independent opinion that the research methods, outcomes and executive summary are sound, accurate and represent best practices in data collection, evaluation and presentation. This opinion comes from my own statistical study of the data and I verify that the analytical results showing the reported positive association between agricultural education and graduation rates are correct. Congratulations to the Texas FFA Foundation for the vision to quantify the positive effects of agricultural science education/Texas FFA for members, teachers, sponsors, policy makers and our Texas communities."

Finis Welch, Ph.D., Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Economics, Texas A&M University; Emeritus Professor of Economics, UCLA

FFA scholarship students reported holding an FFA office.

96%

FFA scholarship students reported holding a chapter level officer position.

89%

FFA scholarship students believe scholarships illustrate confidence from others, reported feeling better prepared for college than their peers and had a college current GPA of 3.49.

93%

