



# THE CATALYST

*Developing the Best in Leadership*

ISSUE FIVE • MARCH 2021



2019 LEAD Experience

## LEADERS BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The Texas FFA Foundation LEAD Experience connects our Texas Agricultural Science teachers to sponsors, key Texas decision/policymakers as well as other stakeholders empowering them with practical, timely, and applicable knowledge that can be taken back to their students, communities and shared with peers. The visits, camaraderie, and opportunity to grow enhanced professional networks and leadership skills – pushes participants towards continued career success.

The LEAD Experience empowers teachers with a better understanding of the Texas FFA Foundation while providing them with excellence by showing them the appreciation and recognition they deserve.

The 2021 week-long LEAD Experience is scheduled for June 20 - 26, 2021, and will be a trip through North and Northeast Texas. Participants will travel approximately 1,000 miles to visit approximately 10 locations and hear from more than 50 presenters.

For 2021, we are launching a student Legislative LEAD, this student program is being held in June. Members can gain exposure to high-caliber mentors, develop their leadership skills, and provides a unique platform and learning experience at our Texas Capitol.



# AN UNEXPLAINABLE EXPERIENCE

To participate in the teachers LEAD Experience, register directly with your Area coordinator. Final selections are made at the end of April. A total of 36 teachers are selected, 3 from each area.

Ron Krobot a Welding and Agriculture Mechanics Instructor at Comfort High School, attended the 2018 LEAD Experience. He graduated from Texas A&M University in 1979 and he has been involved in the Public School Systems across Texas since then either serving as Agriculture Science Teacher and/or School Administrator.



Ron Krobot

*"During the LEAD trip, I witnessed firsthand the value of the brand, the overwhelming support for the FFA Organization, for the teachers, and for especially the students we serve in each of our communities. As we visited the various companies, sponsors, and supporters of Texas FFA across the state, I soon realized how huge that network of support was. Each of the representatives at the various companies we visited provided more than money, they never hesitate to provide assistance and support to each of us when we've needed it. I learned more about the inner workings of the FFA Foundation and how they make dreams come true. I was unaware of the persistent evolution of ideas and support that occurred. Thank You, to the FFA Foundation Board and Aaron Alejandro for such great leadership."*



## A DIFFERENT LENSE

Jeremiah Neal, 2019 - 2020 Texas FFA State Officer from Jacksonville FFA Chapter. He was presented with great opportunities, while also meeting some very knowledgeable people, both inside, and out of our great state, and he is forever thankful for the many blessings this organization and the people in it have given him. He is currently double majoring in agricultural communications and agriculture education at Texas Tech University.

"The Legislative LEAD experience impacted me by reassuring me, that I was doing what I was called to do. In one of the meetings with Representative Ernest Bells, he said to us, "establish yourself and give back. You don't do it for the money, you do it because it's what you're passionate about." At that moment, I knew that what I was doing was learning ways that I could continue to advocate for agriculture and the people in the industry. Be it people like myself, non-traditional agriculturists, or the ones that are generations deep, in the industry. I was doing my part in obtaining the knowledge that was being passed down to me. I may not know exactly how I am going to continue making my difference, but with the knowledge and connections from the Legislative LEAD, I'll figure it out."



Jeremiah Neal  
2019 - 20 State Officer

# KEYS TO SUCCESS

## Leadership Skills

Business transparency is the process of being open, honest, and straightforward about various company operations.

Transparency in business requires entrepreneurs to remain open and informative about key points of information, including their business goals, history, performance, and operations.

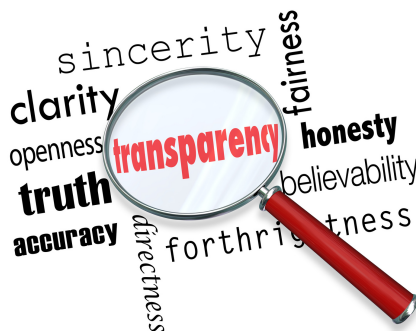
It is a great way to differentiate yourself from the competition. But it's also a part of a closer-knit and more trustworthy world.

### 3 Tips on Transparency

- Being open and honest on organization, chapter, or business operations.
- Solidify your organization's core values
- Share information with your employees
- Create relationships with customers, stakeholders, and employees

### 3 Benefits of Transparency

- Makes for a smoother operation overall
- Results in better relationships with customers
- Increase in advocacy, loyalty, engagement, and commitment



## Food Strategies

What is the largest source of agricultural revenue in Texas? **BEEF**

Did you know the beef producers provide nearly 6.2 million jobs, generating almost \$200 billion in wages and benefits?

More about Texas beef:

- 12% of the cattle in the U.S are in Texas
- The largest cattle inventory ever recorded in Texas was in 1975 at 16.6 million head
- Texas has more cattle than 43 states have people
- Texas has the 14th largest cattle inventory in the world
- The industry has an economic impact of \$14 billion in Texas
- Texas is the 4th largest food producer in the U.S





# HERE TO SERVE

*Our purpose is to strengthen agricultural education and the Texas FFA program, so each student can develop their potential for personal growth, career success and leadership in a global marketplace.*

## OUR TEAM



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## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Brooks Hagler graduated from Anson High School in 1987. He served as State FFA Vice President from Area II from 1987--1988. He received a bachelor's of science in Agricultural Journalism from Texas A&M University in 1991. He received his J.D. from Baylor University shortly after. He was sworn in as a presiding judge on January 1, 2003, and has been serving in that capacity since.

Judge Hagler holds his high school ag teacher, Mr. Donnie Kiker, on the right hand of Jesus. Mr. Donnie introduced Judge Hagler to the wonderful world of the FFA during his high school experience. Judge Hagler used many of the tools that allowed him to experience success in the FFA to this day as a public servant.

"One thing unique about the pandemic year is that it has affected us all. No one was spared. At times I feel like I have been beat up by a bible salesman and thrown out of the local Woolworths, but then again who hasn't. My service on the FFA Foundation BOD has inspired me to keep on pulling for my fellow man. Martin Luther King, Jr. stated the following: "Life's most urgent question is this: What are you doing for others?" That simple question directs me in most of my decisions in life, and I know that I serve with a board that is selfless and is focused on serving the young men and women who come through our great organization. It is humbling, joyful, and exciting to serve with such amazing people in support of a great organization." - The Honorable Brooks H. Hagler

**"Our favorite attitude should be gratitude."**

**- Zig Ziglar**

Do you want to thank someone?

Do you want to honor a mentor?

Do you want to make an impact?

Here's how!

Individual Gift  
Honor Gift  
Memorial gift  
Facebook Fundraiser  
Amazon Smile  
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2520515>  
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