



THE CATALYST

Developing the Best in Leadership

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CELEBRATE VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteerism/noun - The principle of donating time and energy for the benefit of other people in the community as a social responsibility rather than for any financial reward

For all you do, you we appreciate you! Now more than ever, people helping others is worth celebrating. Volunteers make so much possible and deserve our appreciation.

National Volunteer Week during the third week in April is an opportunity to thank all the thousands of volunteers across the country who keep many organizations running, communities safe and provide the services that otherwise would not exist without volunteers.

National Volunteer Week was established by Presidential Proclamation in 1974 to highlight the various opportunities available for those interested in volunteering. 2021 National Volunteer Week will take place from April 18th - 24th.

Every year Texas FFA participates in local chapter community service projects. Examples include Texas FFA - Disaster Relief and Raising Change: Community Service Initiative.

After significant disasters, members of the Agricultural Education Family in Texas and across the nation always ask how they can help FFA chapters and agricultural education programs that have been hit hard by a tragedy. The Texas Team Ag Ed will seek to provide the most up-to-date information on the relief efforts. Keep an eye open for the 2021 community service project this year at - <https://www.texasffa.org/community-service>.

ARE WE CONNECTED?

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LEADERS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

I currently serve as a Texas FFA Ford Leadership Scholar, and I am in the works of completing my capstone project. I choose to implement new playground equipment at Sewell Park here in Jacksboro. I named my project "Sewell Park, Let's Play" as if I were inviting Sewell Park to come play with me on this adventure of accessorizing it with new playground equipment. Sewell Park is Jacksboro's oldest park and will turn 100 years old this June; the tract of land was donated to the City of Jacksboro by Dan Roland Sewell on June 25, 1921, during his time as mayor.

The new additions to Sewell Park will feature a play structure, a bay of 6 swings, and engineered wood fiber surfacing, all in accordance with ADA (American Disabilities Act) guidelines. Upon completion, the park will feature the city pool, new awnings and gazebos, and a new playground. The playground is to be completed before the end of June. I am very fortunate to be able to plan and execute this project in such a supportive community.

Within three weeks, I had met my goal of thirty-thousand dollars and was ready to move forward and finalize the project. Without a doubt, this has been a fantastic journey, and giving back to the community that raised me has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life that I will cherish forever. This project has challenged me in ways I never thought of but has also taught me a lot about myself and how to work with others. This project has inspired me to continue leading with a servant heart and doing more with what has been given to me for the betterment of my community.



Leo Banuelos, 2020 - 21 Ford Leadership Scholar

REMINDERS:

2021 Ambassador applications will close on 4/5/21 at 5 pm.
LEAD Experience registration - sign up with your area coordinator.

ABOVE AND BEYOND



Miles Vann

Agriculture Science Teacher at
Decatur ISD

Growing up with a father as an Agriculture Teacher, now an Administrator, and a mother who is a teacher, my life has revolved around education. My roots run deep in Agriculture and it has always been my dream to work in the Agriculture sector. Where could this dream of cultivating my family roots be achieved? No career suits my aspirations better than teaching the impressionable minds of high school students as an Agriculture Science Teacher. This is my sixth year teaching, and it is something that I have worked long and hard to obtain. I hope to use this opportunity to serve as both an educator and a positive influence for your son or daughter. I graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Leadership and Development in 2013. Following my time in Aggieland, I pursued a Master's of Science at Tarleton State University. I graduated and earned my teaching certification in December of 2014 after student teaching here at Decatur in the Agriculture Department. Following my Graduation from Tarleton, I taught for a year and a half at Byron Nelson High School while living in Decatur. I have been working here at Decatur High School since 2016.

While being fairly new to the teaching profession, I have an extensive history in the FFA. I served as a state officer of the organization, succeeding in numerous Leadership and Career Development events throughout my time as an FFA member including a **National Championship** and over **\$30,000** in scholarships to college.

"Being an Agriculture Science Teacher and Advisor provides the positional leadership needed to open the door for transformational leadership with students. The best part about being an FFA Advisor is the interaction with students and developing those students into future leaders that can make a greater impact."

KEYS TO SUCCESS

Leadership Skills

Servant leadership occurs when the leader's main goal and responsibility is to provide service to their people. A servant leader focuses on the people that are directly below them, rather than the company as a whole. In servant leadership, the leader ensures that the followers are growing in all areas — their profession, knowledge, autonomy, and even their health and physical development.

3 Tips on Servant Leadership

- Practice stewardship - Stewardship refers to accountability. It is the ability to take responsibility for the actions, behaviors, and performances of your team.
- Foresight- Servant leaders look at what you've learned in the past and applying it to the future so you can continue to grow.
- Have empathy - Servant leaders feel for their people and don't turn a blind eye toward their problems and issues. They try hard to resolve those issues by fulfilling the needs and wants of the general public.

3 Benefits of Servant Leadership

- Positive work environment
- Collaborative decision-making in the workplace
- People grow in a servant leadership environment



Food Strategies

Texans know their beef but they also know their **Poultry!**

In Texas, broiler chickens and turkeys are the primary poultry grown in meat production. Poultry is vital to the Texas economy... and your plate! There are approximately 625 million broiler chickens and 6.5 million turkeys raised in Texas.

- Poultry is the second most widely-eaten meat in the world, accounting for about 30% of meat production worldwide, after pork at 38%
- East Texas ranks seventh in the U.S for poultry and egg production at \$448.6 million
- Gonzales Country ranks ninth in the U.S. at \$402 million
- Texas produces 4.7 billion broilers
- Poultry has a panoramic vision of about 300 degrees



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**ENTER
NOW
FOR A
CHANCE
TO WIN**

NOMINATION FORM

Launching April 26, 2021

\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

Join us in celebrating the hardwork and perseverance of the Class of 2021. Nominate your Texas FFA Senior now for a chance to win a \$1,000 award scholarship.



Celebrating the Graduating Class of 2021

We are excited to celebrate the graduating class of Texas FFA members. **This past year brought unprecedented challenges and we acknowledge your dedication and commitment to succeed** - no doubt a bright future is ahead.

Click the above Nomination Form or use the link below for a congratulatory certificate and a chance to win big. One lucky honoree will receive a **\$1,000 award scholarship**.

mytexasffa.org/classof2021

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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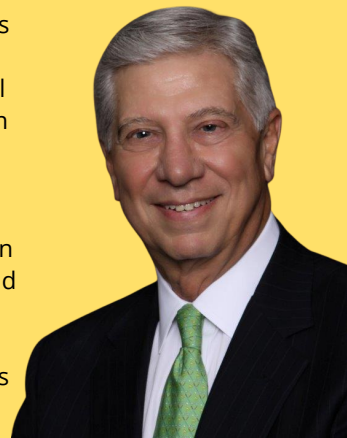
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BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Joe Monteleone is a Certified Public Accountant from Fort Worth, Texas. He received his Bachelor's degree from Southeastern Louisiana University in Accounting. He also received his Master in Liberal Arts at Texas Christian University. He is involved in numerous community service activities including; Texas FFA Foundation, Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate, investment committee Legatus Fort Worth, Finance chairman TCU College of Education Board of Visitors, along with various non-profit and community boards.

When Joe isn't giving back to various organizations he enjoys golf, fitness, gardening, traveling, and reading.



"As the CEO of a private foundation, I have long advocated for helping students of limited economic means get a quality education. Through my board membership of the Fort Worth Stock Show Syndicate and Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, I came to greatly appreciate youth ag education, not only for its academic outcomes but also because of its emphasis on responsibility, accountability, leadership, and citizenship. No organization promotes ag education better than FFA and that's why I support it and the Foundation. Being on the Foundation Board of Directors has been a gratifying experience for me. It has allowed me the opportunity to assist in providing scholarship funds to help FFA students attain their goals through college and life."

"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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