



# THE CATALYST

*Developing the Best in Leadership*

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## DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP

Effective leadership includes reaching out to customers, stakeholders, students, and teachers. Texas agricultural science teachers play a critical role in ensuring the long-term viability of the Texas FFA Foundation. We recently created an online survey to gain teacher insights on the direction, efforts, and strategies of the Foundation. We wanted to make sure our efforts reflected the needs, opportunities, and leadership development for students and teachers.

The survey was sent to teachers on December 22, 2020. We accepted responses through January 7, 2021. As an incentive to participation, participating teachers were entered in a drawing for a \$500 grant for their FFA chapter.

"Thank You" to all that participated. We appreciate you taking a moment to help us. You gave us valuable insights. Here is a glimpse of the results.

- 365 responses
- 284 FFA chapters represented

Teachers identified three key areas they would like to see the Foundation working toward:

1. **Leadership Development** for students and teachers
2. **Academic Scholarships** (4 - year awards)
3. **Marketing / Advocacy / PR** for Texas Team Ag Ed

In addition to the rankings, we ask teachers for comments and feedback. Their feedback provided great insight into the needs, challenges, and opportunities presented in the current COVID-19 teaching environment. The insights were shared with the Texas FFA Association and Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas. The comments shared by teachers were validating for many of our efforts, and they also provided the direction of how we may be able to assist their efforts in the classroom.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**White Deer FFA**  
**CHAPTER**  
for being the winner of  
the **\$500 grant drawing!**

Thank you to all the advisors that participated in the Texas FFA Foundation survey.



# ENHANCING LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Texas FFA Foundation Board of Directors met in mid-January for the first quarterly meeting of the year. The focus of this meeting was on board of director terms, officer elections, and strategic planning. Reports were presented from the Texas FFA Foundation, Texas FFA, TEA, and ATAT.

The Texas FFA Foundation always lets our teachers, state officers, and other guests know about our board meetings and how to attend. A core value of our management style is "transparency." Current Texas FFA Officers and representatives of the Past State Officers organization joined us. In addition to our in-state stakeholders, we had several out-of-state guests join our meeting. State Foundation Directors from Nevada FFA, South Dakota FFA, Montana FFA, Pennsylvania FFA, Minnesota FFA, and New Mexico FFA joined our Zoom meeting.

**"Thank you for the invitation to join your Board of Directors meeting. It was great to see how your board operates and I have to say I am pretty envious of the positive collaboration that the Texas FFA Foundation has with Team Ag Ed and your Stakeholders."** - Gwynn Simeniuk, Executive Director, Montana FFA Foundation.

## 2021 Foundation Board Meetings

March 30, 2021

May 27, 2021

October 4, 2021



## AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

We are grateful for all our Texas FFA Foundation sponsors. **First United Bank** has been a sponsor for **Texas FFA Foundation Ambassador** program for 10-years. Their support has helped empower students with a unique leadership development opportunity while providing them a chance to expand their professional networks.

We are excited about the 2021 ambassador program. Applications will open on February 15th, 2021 <http://mytexasffa.org/foundation/living-to-serve>. Ambassador selections will be made in early May. Ambassador training will begin Monday, July 5th at 9:00 AM. Stay up to date on the Foundation Ambassador program – along with other Foundation activities - at [www.mytexasffa.org/foundation](http://www.mytexasffa.org/foundation).



Nathan Barrett is a freshman at Texas A&M University majoring in Animal Science with a minor in Agricultural Economics. He is a member of the Texas A&M Collegiate Wool Judging Team, COALS Council, as well as a Terry Foundation Scholar. Nathan served as a Foundation Ambassador for years. His positive attitude coupled with a desire to learn and serve others created an extraordinary leadership development laboratory. Nathan engaged, assimilated best practices, and took advantage of all the Ambassador program affords students.

**"The Texas FFA Foundation Ambassador program was one of the best experiences in my high school career. The experience helped me jump start my professional network in addition to giving me leadership skills to grow personally and professionally."** - Nathan Barrett

# KEYS TO SUCCESS

## Leadership Skills

Successful organizations are built on successful relationships. Relationship building is essential, and it takes work. It is important for organizations like the Texas FFA Foundation. Developing strong relationships with stakeholders and sponsors transforms us from being “just another nonprofit” into a brand they trust.

### *3 Tips on Relationship Building*

- **Stay Connected.** Take the time to stay connected to professional networks and peers. Social media is a great way to keep in touch.
- **Networking.** Identify people older than you and younger than you to add to your professional network. Join clubs, professional associations, and participate in other community activities.
- **Effective Communication.** Remember communication is a two-way process of both transmitting and receiving information. Always be willing to improve both your written and spoken communication skills.

### *3 Benefits of Successful Relationships*

- **Teamwork.** None of us is as strong as all of us. Successful relationships improve teamwork and collaboration. Strong relationships allow us the chance to be vulnerable and identify ways to improve and capitalize on opportunities presented.
- **Productivity.** Successful relationships help us reduce the “Lone Ranger” mentality and lean on the assistance and expertise of others. Collaborative and collective efforts reduce stress, provide clarity, and help us focus on tasks at hand.
- **Opportunities.** Successful relationships encourage an atmosphere of empowerment. When opportunities are identified, we are more apt to share those with people in our network. We trust one another and know when we lend our name to an opportunity that it will be executed with the highest expectations of excellence.

## Food Strategies

Let's talk about the food of love .

.. **CHOCOLATE!**

Did you know?

- Manufacturing chocolate, candy, gum, and mints directly employ nearly 54,000 people in the U.S. with more than 550,000 jobs supported in agriculture, retail, transportation, and more.
- There are 32 chocolate manufacturing companies in Texas.
- The chocolate industry is worth approximately \$110 billion per year
- The largest chocolate bar ever weighed over 12,770 lbs.
- Americans buy 58 million+ lbs. of chocolate on Valentine's Day
- Hershey's Makes 70 Million Kisses a Day

What's in My Chocolate?

**Milk Chocolate** - sugar, milk or milk powder, cocoa powder, cocoa liquor, cocoa butter, Lethicin, and Vanilla.





# CTE 1.0

## What is CTE?

**Career and Technical Education**, or CTE, directly prepares students for high-wage, high-demand jobs. CTE covers many different fields, including health care, information technology, advanced manufacturing, hospitality, management, agriculture, food, natural resources, and many more. CTE encompasses many education pathways, from classroom learning, certification programs to work-based learning opportunities outside the classroom.

## What is CTE Month?

Career and Technical Education Month is a public awareness campaign that takes place each February to celebrate the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country.

## What is a CTSO?

Career Technical Student Organization, or CTSO, is a key component to strong CTE programs. CTSOs integrate into CTE programs and courses extend teaching and learning through innovative programs, business and community partnerships, and leadership experiences at the school, state, and national levels. Students have a chance to compete against other students with their respective skills earning awards, recognitions, and scholarships.

There are nine CTSOs in Texas:

- Business Professionals of America
- DECA, Texas Association
- Future Business Leaders of America
- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
- Health Occupations Students of America
- SkillsUSA Texas
- Texas Association of Future Educators
- Texas FFA Association
- Texas Technology Students Association



The AFNR Career Cluster Content Standards provide state agricultural education leaders and educators with a high-quality, rigorous set of standards to guide what students should know and be able to do after completing a program of study in each of the AFNR career pathways. While each school district can determine what AFNR courses are offered on their campus, there are 49 (32 courses and 17 related labs) AFNR courses in Texas.

State leaders and local educators are encouraged to use the standards as a guide for the development of well-planned curriculum and assessments for AFNR-related CTE programs. These standards are intended to help shape the design of all components of an agricultural education program including:

- Classroom and laboratory instruction.
- Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) experiences through organizations such as the National FFA Organization and the Post-Secondary Agriculture Students Organization (PAS).
- Work-based learning experiences such as Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Programs and internships.



# HERE TO SERVE

Don't miss National Give FFA Day. It will be held on February 25th, 2021. You can help support Texas by donating to <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/2021grow>

## OUR TEAM



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## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



A principal architect of the animal intelligence vision and executing its role in sustainable food production globally, Brian Bolton was the CEO of Antelliq (now Merck Animal Health Intelligence) until he retired in January. His 37-yr career began in the United Kingdom where he managed dairy and arable farms before joining the international cattle genetics industry, first in France before moving to the US in 2000 to join ABS (Genus) where he was VP of Marketing. Brian joined Allflex as President for North America in 2004. With his Dallas-based global leadership and investment team developed the role of identification, traceability, and monitoring across land and water-based animal protein species and companion animals to touch more than 600 million animals each year globally. Brian proudly received his US citizenship in 2016. He and his family now reside in California where he makes wine, collects cars, and supports the food industry by lending his experience where it is of value.

**"The FFA teaches sound human values that create confident leaders with integrity and the ability and desire to execute. The world needs leaders who can answer the call of how we can meet the global needs for food to sustain our growing population whilst sustaining the planet we all inhabit. I'm proud of the work that everyone in the FFA does, it makes a real and lasting difference over the long term to the whole world, not just the individuals involved."**

**"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>  
**MYTEXASFFA.ORG**

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