

ESTABLISHING A STATEWIDE AGRISCIENCE TEACHER EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

FOUNDATION



Professional learning needs were identified in California agriscience teachers since the nationwide diffusion of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).



Through a USDA NIFA grant, the NGAS program established a statewide agriscience teacher externship program to increase awareness of agriscience industries and phenomena that can be integrated into the classroom.



Evidence strongly supports the utilization of externships as a professional learning vehicle for agriscience teachers to build connections between the industry and their classrooms.

APPLY TO EXTERNSHIP

AGRISCIENCE TEACHERS PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION AND EXTERNSHIP GOALS.

COMPLETE EXTERNSHIP

PARTICIPANTS COMPLETE 40 HOURS OF FIELD WORK UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF A PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURE COMPANY.

CREATE NGSS LESSON PLAN

PARTICIPANTS CREATE LESSON PLANS ALIGNED WITH NGSS STANDARDS TO BE USED IN AGRISCIENCE CLASSES.

RESULTS TO DATE

35 agriscience teachers placed in agricultural externships.
33 agricultural externship host sites.
Agricultural externships from all sectors of AFNR.

FUTURE PLANS & ADVICE



Externships were arranged to be completed in the summer between typical school years. However, summer months can still pose challenges for agriscience teachers in terms of availability and commitment. Constant communication between all parties is crucial.



The USDA NIFA grant funds the externship program through the summer of 2024 where a final cohort of 30-40 agriscience teacher externs will participate. Beyond the grant's life, the externship program is to be recognized as a regular form of Professional Learning through the California Agriculture Teachers Association where Continuing Education Units (CEU) will be housed by Fresno Pacific University. Industry sponsorships will be sought after to host a smaller group of 5-10 externs annually.

COSTS & RESOURCES



A \$1000 stipend and a \$300 CEU reimbursement for each teacher extern was provided after completion. Companies were awarded a \$200 honorarium.



A paid independent contractor with vast agricultural connections associated with the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation used to select the externship host sites.



A website with a database is sought after to house externship information and other grant objective materials.



REFERENCES AND ABSTRACT

JONATHAN MOULES,
DR. NICOLE RAY,
CAMERON STANDRIDGE,
KAITLYNN LINDERHOLM,
STACY VANSKOY