



# ENGAGING TEACHER CANDIDATES IN DEVELOPING AND EVALUATING A MOCK PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES AND NATIONAL CHAPTER AWARD

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## INTRO & NEED

- A program of activities (POA) consists of 15 quality standards to guide FFA chapters in 3 divisions: growing leaders, building communities, strengthening ag.
- Some chapters participate in the national chapter award (NCA) to recognize chapter efforts.
- Assisting with FFA applications and developing a POA are significant challenges among in-service educators (Hainline & Smalley, 2023; Torres & Dormody, 1997).
- Fewer than 10% of FFA chapters report participating in the NCA program annually (Sheehan & Moore, 2019).
- This idea is needed to support educators in developing their skills so they can support their students.



## METHODOLOGY

- The class brainstorms a list of activities they could complete in mock POA and enters them on AET.
- Students complete each area of the NCA for a chosen event, and report mock outcomes to get practice.
- The class engages in a mock application review process.
- The class engages in a reflection activity to reinforce the learning.



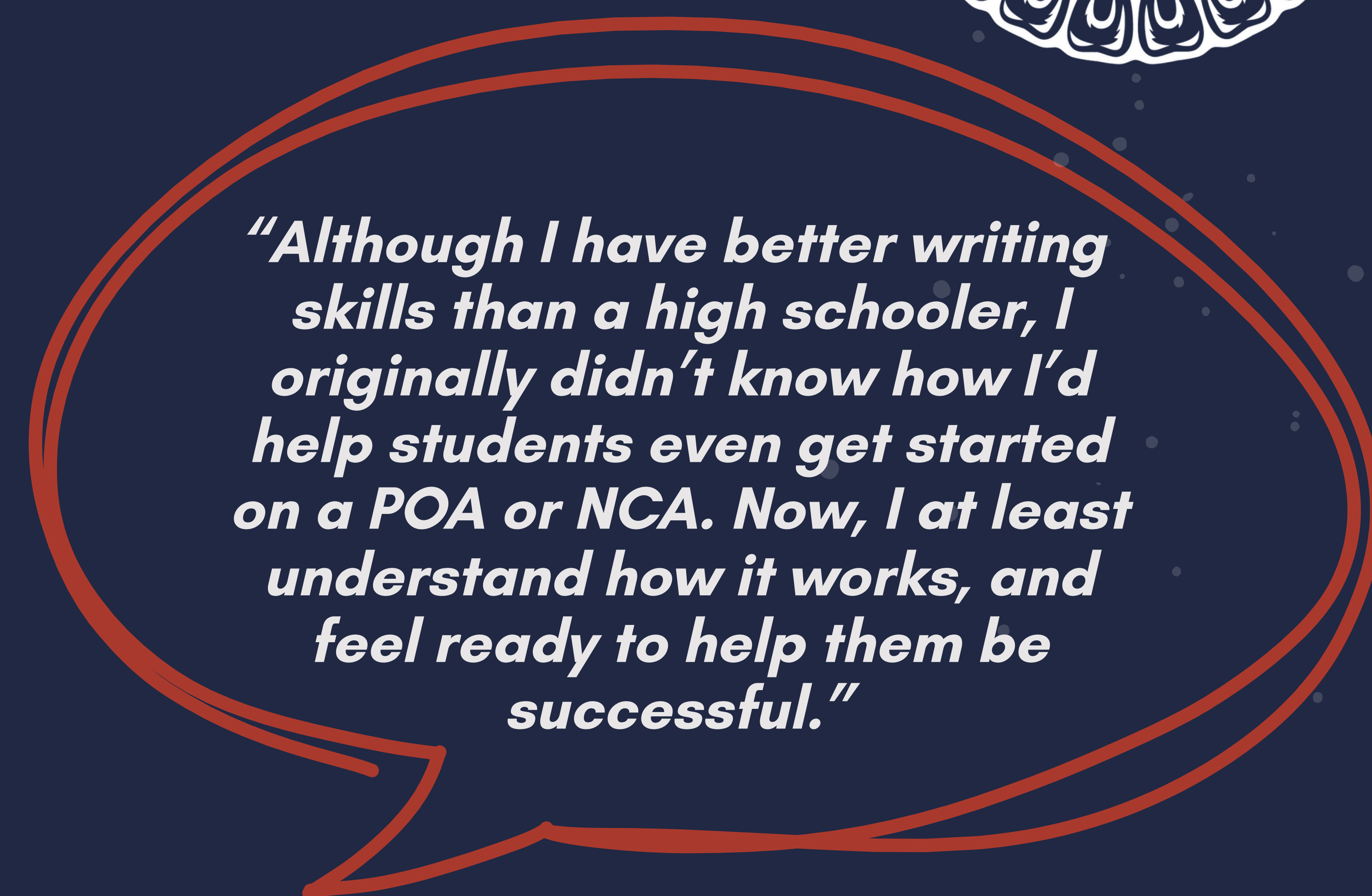
## RESULTS & IMPLICATIONS

- Each student scored the class NCA application using National FFA's rubric and evaluation criteria.
- At the start of the unit, teacher candidates were overwhelmed by the task of guiding students to develop POA.
- By the end of the unit, teacher candidates felt more prepared to assist their students in developing strong applications for the NCA.
- Teacher candidates recognized by entering into application season with a plan on how to best help students read and understand rubrics, they can develop stronger materials and get recognized for their work.



## FUTURE PLANS & ADVICE

- We plan to continue this activity in the course moving forward.
- We also plan to offer teacher candidates the opportunity to evaluate NCA applications from around Iowa to provide chapters with feedback before judging.
- We advise using the free resources provided by National FFA to provide additional resources on preparing quality NCA applications.



*"Although I have better writing skills than a high schooler, I originally didn't know how I'd help students even get started on a POA or NCA. Now, I at least understand how it works, and feel ready to help them be successful."*



## COST & RESOURCES

- 3-4 class sessions
- An AET account for each student (\$0 for mock accounts with National FFA)
- Printed materials (NCA application and grading rubrics for each student) (<\$5)
- Student internet access



## REFERENCES



Scan the QR code to review the full abstract.