

TEACHER RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

STAR Program

State Teach Ag Results Program, a project of the National Teach Ag Campaign, provides funds for states to develop sustainable programs to increase the number of agriculture teachers. High school and college students (273) were able to participate in an exploration of in becoming an agriculture teacher.

Activities at the High School Level

- Ag Education FFA State Career Development Event (17)
- Elite conference for students interested in teaching ag (105)
- Internships with experienced teachers (23)
- Presentations and individual contacts to high school students (56)

Activities at the Collegiate Level

- Student teacher recognition at state ag teachers conference (22)
- Student teacher grants (22)
- Pre-service teacher ag program bus trip (5)
- Growing Agriculture Science Teacher Internships (23)
- IAVAT Student Branch experiences

*Number of individuals shown in (parenthesis).



Activities to Retain Teachers

- Early career teacher conferences including graduate credit for first and second year teachers (61)
- Professional development trainings and workshops (873)
- IAA Foundation New Teacher Recognition Grant where (4) first year teachers are recognized annually in receiving a total of \$10,000 for staying in the profession for 6 years

Growing Agriculture Science Teachers (GAST) Grant

This grant was instituted in 2009 to assist in accomplishing long-term goals for preparing individuals for a career as an agricultural teacher. Allocations are contingent on annual funding priorities (up to \$50,000 in FY21) and provided to colleges and universities with an agricultural education teacher preparation course or degree program to provide funding for programming and activities to address Illinois' growing agriculture teacher shortage. Funding has been used for: student scholarships for aspiring agricultural educators, academic scholarships for college credit opportunities, student mentorship, and advanced technological lab resources in training quality agricultural education students.

The Growing Agriculture Science Teachers (GAST) Grant for universities and colleges includes annual initiatives to empower students of color to major in Agriscience Education. The Agricultural Education Joint Board of Directors (IAVAT and FFA) formed a statewide diversity and inclusion task force to develop initiatives to increase access to agricultural education among diverse students. FCAE initiated a program for school districts to start a local Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) organization.

