

**Annual Report of the Western Illinois University's Agricultural Education Program**  
**2023-2024 Academic Year**  
**Submitted by Dr. Andrew J. Baker**

General Comments:

I have just completed my twenty-fifth year as the teacher educator for the Agricultural Education program at Western Illinois University. I am very fortunate to have had some great students that have followed their dream and became teachers of excellence. Several of my graduates have been selected for teaching awards (listed on the last page of this report), which can be attributed to their teaching excellence. This program has produced teachers that are teaching in five different states impacting students across the country. I have spent two decades as the sole faculty member preparing students for a career in Agricultural Education as well as Director of the School of Agriculture for thirteen of those years. Agricultural Education majors continue to secure positions and remain in the profession assisting with state placement and retention issues. It is a good feeling, because the program has graduated 110 candidates in this twenty-five-year period. Of those 110 candidates, 96 were placed into teaching positions, which has established an 87% placement rate. Of those 96 candidates, 56 are still teaching, which is 58% retention rate. However, 222 students have at least enrolled in one or more Agricultural Education courses over the twenty-five-year period, which indicates that 51% (n=112) did not pursue Agricultural Education as a major. Some of the variables that impact the percentage of students not wanting to pursue the teaching field certainly are state license and teacher education requirements. Over the past several years, the state has utilized the ACT composite of 22 as a passing score for admittance into teacher education. The state has since dropped the ACT/SAT requirement, which may help teacher education programs across the state. The edTPA has been fully integrated since fall 2015 semester and is the final assessment to determine if a student receives their IL teaching license. However, the edTPA has been waived by the State Illinois, since the pandemic and the short supply of teachers in the state. I feel our teacher education program is one of the premier programs in the state. Our placement and retention rates are some of the best in the state over the last several years. Over a twenty-five-year period, we have sustained an 87% placement rate (n=96) and a 58% retention rate (n=56) for our program, which I believe is something to be proud of. I believe these statistics prove we are the institution of choice for Agricultural Education in Illinois!

The curriculum is still field-based, which allows our students to gain those valuable hours of practice prior to student teaching. The West Central Agricultural Education Advisory Council met twice over the academic year with stable attendance. We attend an IAVAT Student Branch workshop in the spring and the bus tour in the fall. Our Agricultural Education numbers have remained fairly stable with about 24 majors in the program. There were only 23 Agricultural Education graduates state-wide this year (as shown below), which WIU had four of those state-wide graduates (17%). The state-wide number of graduates (N=23), which is down from last year. It is illustrated on the last chart (highlighted) that WIU is the top institution in placement rate (82%) among the other three Illinois agricultural institutions in the state and second in the number of graduates placed over that 17-year period (N=62). More importantly, WIU holds the lowest FTE among the four teacher preparation institutions (WIU = .5 FTE, ISU = 2.0 FTE's, SIU = 2.0 FTE's, U of I = 3.0 FTE's). WIU is not the largest Agricultural Education program in

the state, but it certainly is the most productive program when comparing FTE's and placement rates.

2023-2024 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	4	4	100%
SIU	5	3	60%
U of I	10	7	70%
WIU	4	4	100%
Totals	23	18	78%

2022-2023 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	3	3	100%
SIU	9	7	78%
U of I	14	7	50%
WIU	4	2	50%
Totals	30	19	63%

2021-2022 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	5	4	80%
SIU	9	7	78%
U of I	17	11	65%
WIU	5	5	100%
Totals	36	27	75%

2020-2021 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	8	7	87%
SIU	5	2	40%
U of I	17	12	70%
WIU	6	6	100%
Totals	36	27	75%

2019-2020 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	4	4	100%
SIU	5	3	60%
U of I	6	5	83%
WIU	6	5	83%
Totals	21	17	81%

2018-2019 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	6	5	83%
SIU	7	3	43%
U of I	13	8	62%
WIU	1	1	100%
Totals	27	17	63%

2017-2018 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	7	6	86%
SIU	9	8	89%
U of I	13	12	92%
WIU	7	7	100%
Totals	36	33	92%

2016-2017 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	5	3	60%
SIU	7	6	86%
U of I	7	6	86%
WIU	2	2	100%
Totals	21	17	81%

2015-2016 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	6	4	66.7%
SIU	4	2	50%
U of I	6	4	66.7%
WIU	6	4	66.7%
Totals	22	14	64%

2014-2015 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	3	2	66%
SIU	2	2	100%
U of I	11	7	64%
WIU	1	1	100%
Totals	17	12	71%

2013-2014 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	0	0	0%
SIU	3	2	66%
U of I	5	3	60%
WIU	4	4	100%
Totals	12	9	75%

2012-2013 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	3	3	100%
SIU	2	0	0%
U of I	3	0	0%
WIU	3	3	100%
Totals	11	6	55%

2011-2012 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	5	3	60%
SIU	7	4	57%
U of I	11	7	64%
WIU	5	5	100%
Totals	28	19	68%

2010-2011 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	8	7	88%
SIU	13	3	23%
U of I	11	4	36%
WIU	3	1	33%
Totals	35	15	43%

2009-2010 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	5	2	40%
SIU	12	4	33%
U of I	1	0	0%
WIU	8	6	75%
Totals	26	12	46%

2008-2009 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

<u>Institution</u>	<u># Grads</u>	<u># Placed</u>	<u>% Placed</u>
ISU	4	2	50%
SIU	8	3	37.5%
U of I	6	2	33.3%
WIU	5	3	60%
Totals	23	10	43.5%

2007-2008 State-wide Graduates in Agricultural Education:

Institution	# Grads	# Placed	% Placed
ISU	2	2	100%
SIU	7	0	0%
U of I	5	5	100%
WIU	6	4	66.6%
Totals	19	11	58%

(2007-2024) 17 Year Running Total of State-Wide Graduate in Agricultural Education

Institution	# Grads	# Placed	% Placed
ISU	78	61	78%
SIU	114	59	52%
U of I	156	100	64%
WIU	76	62	82%
Totals	401	264	66%

West Central Agricultural Education Advisory Council:

Chair: Mr. Colton Downs (Canton HS)

Vice-Chair: Mr. Brent Nelson (Franklin HS)

Secretary: Any Agricultural Education major present

Agricultural Education Students:

There were 4 student teachers this year and 4 program completers that were licensed by the State of Illinois this year. We have been able to continue our quest for excellent student teaching placements. Students excelled in their student teaching placements, because of the excellence in the mentoring process.

Name	Semester	Stud. Teach. Center	Employment Status
Christy Mahr	Fl 2023	Elmwood	Farmington
Laurel Keyt	Sp 2024	Williamsfield	Kewanee
Adelaide Harp	Sp 2024	Macomb	Meridian-Macon
Alex Bruno	Sp 2024	Franklin	Auburn

Each student teacher had three face-to-face visits from me this year. Each face-to-face visit would at least be three to four hours in length. Each visit, I tried to observe at least two courses and had a debriefing discussion with the student teacher and cooperating teacher about their progress. I logged in about 1100 miles of travel and 80 employment hours for student teacher visitations this year. The numbers of miles have increased along with about the same employment hours as last year.

The placement rate for this year's group is 100% (4 out of 4), which is up from last year's placement rate. The program has established a 100% placement rate for 10 out of the last 13 years.

Retention rates are still a priority of the program, which are highlighted in the table below. The class of 2022-2023 (N=2) is currently sitting at 100% retention rate as both graduates signed a 2<sup>nd</sup> year contract for this fall. The class of 2021-2022 (N=5) is currently sitting at 60% retention

rate as two graduate left teaching to pursue other endeavors. The class of 2020-2021 (N=6) has 83% retention rate with one who left teaching. The class of 2019-2020 (N=5) has established an 60% retention rate going into this upcoming year with two who left teaching. The class of 2018-2019 (N=1) has a 0% retention rate as the sole graduate left teaching. The class of 2017-2018 (N=7) has established an 86% retention rate with one graduate at Iowa State working on PhD in Agricultural Education. The class of 2016-2017 (N=2) has established a 100% retention rate. The class of 2015-2016 (N=4) has a 0% retention rate with all graduates leaving the profession. The class of 2014-2015 (N=1) has maintained a 100% retention rate and this candidate has earned numerous teaching awards. The class of 2013-2014 (N=4) has established a 75% retention rate going into this upcoming year with 3 retaining positions with 1 teaching in California. The 2012-2013 class (N=3) has established 66.7% retention in the profession with two graduates still in the teaching profession and entering their 12<sup>th</sup> year at the same school. The 2011-2012 class has established a 20% retention rate with 1 out of the 5 left in the teaching profession. The 2010-2011 group has a 0% retention rate with no remaining graduates in the profession. The 2009-2010 (N=7) with four of the seven (57%) have been retained in the education profession. One individual is still with their original school. One hundred percent (3 out of 3) of the 2008-2009 class who have been placed are still teaching one in their original school. Fifty percent (2 out of 4) of the 2007-2008 class have been retained for their 17<sup>th</sup> year contract. Sixty-six percent (2 out of 3) of the 2006-2007 class are in the teaching field today. The one individual has signed his 18<sup>th</sup> year contract in his initial school in Iowa. One graduate out of this class has secured employment at Murray State University as their Agricultural Education faculty member. The 2005-2006 class sits at 50% (2 out of 4) of the placed individuals are still in the teaching field. Two of three individuals (67%) remain of the 2004-2005 class. No individuals of 2003-2004 (0 out of 3) class are teaching at this time, but one individual taught for 11 years before leaving the profession. Fifty percent (2 out of 4) of 2002-2003 graduates remain in the profession. Seventy-one percent (5 out of 7) of the 2001-2002 graduates are still in the profession. One graduate has earned his PhD in Agricultural Education and is the new Assistant Professor in Agricultural Education at Illinois State University. Seventy-five percent (3 out of 4) of the 2000-2001 placed individuals have still been retained in the profession and are entering their 24<sup>th</sup> year with all 3 still with their initial school, which is almost unheard of today. WIU's graduates are still succeeding very well in the profession, which is the main objective of the program.

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
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**2022-2023 Class**

Kristie Weidhuner	Fl 22	Midwest Central (January)	New Berlin 2 <sup>nd</sup> year
Kinsey Tiemann	Fl 22	Adams Cty AITC	Adams Cty AITC
Jamie Hildreth	Fl 22	Electrician School	Electrician School
Katie Riggins	Sp 23	Macomb Jr High (3 <sup>rd</sup> teacher)	Macomb 2 <sup>nd</sup> year

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
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**2021-2022 Class**

Matt Wright	Fl 21	Rushville ET instructor (1)	Left teaching after 1 <sup>st</sup> year
Alicia Flowers	Fl 21	Louisiana, MO	Louisiana, MO 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
Kaitlyn Kane	Sp 22	Franklin (2 <sup>nd</sup> teacher jrhs)	Franklin 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
Colby Trone	Sp 22	Knoxville (2 <sup>nd</sup> teacher jrhs)	Abingdon-Avon 2 <sup>nd</sup> year
Katie Carter	Sp 22	Mt Pulaski jrhs Science (2)	John Deere

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2020-2021 Class</u></b>			
Hannah Libby	Fl 20	Mercer County	Mercer County 4 <sup>th</sup> year
Brandon Livingston	Fl 20	Mercer County	Mercer County 4 <sup>th</sup> year
Sydney Riden	Sp 21	Rushville	Rushville 4 <sup>th</sup> year
Rachel Whitlock	Sp 21	Liberty	Liberty 4 <sup>th</sup> year
Courtney Thorman	Sp 21	Rushford-Peterson, MN	Rushford-Peterson 4 <sup>th</sup> year
Danielle McConnvile	Sp 21	Oakwood (1)	Teaching overseas

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2019-2020 Class</u></b>			
Emily Millburg	Fl 19	Chester	Chester 5 <sup>th</sup> year
Cassie Perrin	Sp 20	Brownstown (4)	Ag teacher position in MI
Anna Shupe	Sp 20	Paris (4)	Left teaching
Megan Meade	Sp 20	Cerro Gordo	Cerro Gordo 5 <sup>th</sup> year
Haley Smith	Sp 20	Abingdon-Avon	Blackhawk CC recruiter
Brianna Parada	Sp 20	Working for SS	Working for SS

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2018-2019 Class</u></b>			
Lindsey O'Hara	Sp 18	Louisiana, MO (2) Silex (2)	Client relations w/ ag

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2017-2018 Class</u></b>			
Kacie Priebe	Fl 17	Covington, GA (4)	GA NRCS agent
Martin Nall	Fl 17	Unity-Mendon (1.5)	Camp Point 6 <sup>th</sup> year
Dusti Ingles	Fl 17	Alton (1) Freeburg (2)	Grad sch Ag Ed ISU
Brent Nelson	Sp 18	Franklin	Franklin 7 <sup>th</sup> year
Christian Thurwanger	Sp 18	Kaneland	Sycamore 6 <sup>th</sup> year
Mariana Roberts	Sp18	Payson-Seymour (4)	Liberty 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
Colton Downs	Sp 18	Canton	Canton 7 <sup>th</sup> year

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2016-2017 Class</u></b>			
Kayla Riedle	Sp 17	Shawnee (3)	Clinton 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
Samantha Martin	Fl 16	Edinburg	Edinburg 8 <sup>th</sup> year

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2015-2016 Class</u></b>			
Kole Stadt	Sp 16	Prairie Central (5)	Left teaching
Grace Foster	Fl 15	Rushville (5)	Left teaching
Evan Sheppard	Fl 15	Beardstown (1) GP (5)	Left teaching
Richard Houzenga	Fl 15	Riverdale (7) Erie (1)	Left teaching

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2014-2015 Class</u></b>			
Trent Taber	Sp 15	Cambridge	Cambridge 10 <sup>th</sup> year

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2013-2014 Class</u></b>			
Liz Fanning	Fl 13	Hartsburg-Emden (4 yrs)	Edwardsville 7 <sup>th</sup> year
Jeff Rieck	Fl 13	Cambridge (1.5 years)	Seed Sales
Riley Hintzsche	Sp 14	Streator	Streator 11 <sup>th</sup> year
Kaylyn Schiber	Sp 14	Livingston, CA	Livingston 11 <sup>th</sup> year

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2012-2013 Class</u></b>			
Teri Hooper	Fl 12	Payson-Seymour (1)	Chiropractor's Office
Julie Herrmann	Sp 13	Indian Creek	Indian Creek 12 <sup>th</sup> year
Emily Huntington	Sp 13	Belvidere-North	Belvidere-North 12 <sup>th</sup> year

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2011-2012 Class</u></b>			
Wyatt McGrew	Sp 12	Rushville (3 years)	Macomb 10 <sup>th</sup> year
Emily Bogner	Sp 12	Abingdon (1 year)	Left teaching
Veronica Handegan	Fl 11	Edinburg (1.5) Mattoon (2)	Title Insurance
Rachel Skien	Fl 11	B-town (1) Havana (3) Lewis(1)	Left teaching
Cory Sprung	Fl 11	Bluffs	Left teaching

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2010-2011 Class</u></b>			
Ashley Mason	Sp 11	Grad school (U of F)	Monsanto
Kelli Titus	Sp 11	program non-completer	Provision teacher Galesburg
Bryan Schullian	Fl 10	Southeastern (12)	U of I Extension (Adams)
Jennifer Twardowski	Fl 10	Overseas teaching	Graduate School in CA

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2009-2010 Class</u></b>			
Kate Wedekind	Sp 10	Hillsboro (2) Pawnee (2)	Left teaching
Samantha White	Sp 10	Bank Teller	Bank Teller
Bonnie Peterson	Sp 10	MR (1)Ft Madison, IA (9)	Left teaching
Laura Belville	Sp 10	VIT (1) Liberty (2)	Teaching at private sch
Garrett Helregel	Sp 10	Dieterich	Dieterich 15 <sup>th</sup> year
Doug Nelson	Sp 10	8 years of teaching	Selling seed corn
Mallory Swanson	Fl 09	Kewanee (4)	Knoxville 9 <sup>th</sup> year
Liz Alloway	Fl 09	Jacksonville (3)	Bluffs 12 <sup>th</sup> year



<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2008-2009 Class</u></b>			
Justin Dikeman	Sp 09	Pioneer Inc.	Pioneer Inc.
Kelly Kretzer	Sp 09	Southeastern (2)	Quincy 9 <sup>th</sup> year
Cindy Schriener	Sp 08	Milledgeville (3)	Eastland 13 <sup>th</sup> year
Stacey Rohrscheib	Sp 08	Warsaw	Salt Fork 5 <sup>th</sup> year
Shannon Fatland	FL 08	Wedding planner	Wedding planner

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2007-2008 Class</u></b>			
Jackie Burns	Spring 08	4 years of teaching	Stay at home mom
Blaine Hartwick	Spring 08	Triopia (8)	Carrollton 9 <sup>th</sup> year
Matt Meyer	Spring 08	Stockton (6)	Mendota 11 <sup>th</sup> year
Kami Kates	Spring 08	8 years of teaching	Stay at home mom
Mary Olson	Spring 08	Midwest Technical Instit.	Midwest Technical Instit.
James Kennedy	Fall 07	Advance Crop Services	Advance Crop Services

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2006-2007 Class</u></b>			
Jerry Driscoll	Spring 07	Sigourney, IA	Sigourney, IA 18 <sup>th</sup> year
Elly Troxell	Spring 07	Polo (2 yrs)	Stay @ home mom
Matt Shultz	Fall 06	Ventura, IA (2.5)	Teacher educator at MSU
Chad Lambert	Fall 06	?????	Pioneer Inc.

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2005-2006 Class</u></b>			
Kristie Monier	Spring 06	2 years of teaching	??????
Miles Allen	Fall 05	Illini Central (2007)	Illini Central 19 <sup>th</sup> year
Robin Fisher	Fall 05	3 years of teaching	Implement dealer
Alison Thompson	Fall 05	VIT (2) Avon (6) BPC (6)	WP 2 <sup>nd</sup> year

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2004-2005 Class</u></b>			
Tara Lafollette	Spring 05	P H (2) Beardstown (4)	Elwood 11 <sup>th</sup> year
Jennifer Pickett	Fall 04	Winchester (1 ½) Astoria (2)	Williamsville 11 <sup>th</sup> year
Jeremiah Simmons	Fall 04	Lewistown (1 ½)	Left teaching Aldorf tech

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2003-2004 Class</u></b>			
Corey Terwilliger	Spring 04	11 years of teaching	????
Adam Duffield	Spring 04	1 year of teaching	Unknown
Sara Evans	Spring 04	1 year of teaching	Restaurant owner

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2002-2003 Class</u></b>			
Nicole Thornton	Spring 03	Rantoul (2)	Delevan 11 <sup>th</sup> year
John Davin	Spring 03	Palmyra (2) Edwards (13)	Staunton 7 <sup>th</sup> year
Caylin Mahr	Spring 03	4 years of teaching	teaching math MR
Tim Phillips (C) (G)	Spring 03	2 years of teaching	Self-employed

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2001-2002 Class</u></b>			
Jay Solomonson	Spring 02	Orion (17)	Ag Ed professor @ ISU
Sam DeCounter	Spring 02	Carthage (14)	WP 9 <sup>th</sup> year
Tad White (C)	Spring 02	Lewistown	Unknown
Wendy Leenerts (C)	Spring 02	Waterloo (1) IW (3)	Hoopeston 3 <sup>rd</sup> year
Rhonda Marshang(G)	Spring 02	Annawan 1 <sup>st</sup> year	unknown
Dan Oilar (G)	Fall 01	Nauvoo-Colusa (6.5)	Kahoka, MO 17 <sup>th</sup> year
Kent Rigg	Fall 01	Chenoa (3.5) Roseville (2)	Williamsfield 18 <sup>th</sup> year
Darren Moser	Fall 01	IL Dept of Ag	IL Department of Agriculture
Dan Klein	Fall 01	Family Farm	Working on Family Farm

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>2000-2001 Class</u></b>			
Amy Frericks-Lucie	Spring 01	Unity-Mendon	Unity-Mendon 24 <sup>th</sup> year
Chad Mahlers	Spring 01	Serena	Serena 24 <sup>th</sup> year
Aaron Heartt	Spring 01	Aledo	Aledo 24 <sup>th</sup> year
Emily Bagett	Spring 01	Special Ed. Assist.	Bowling Green, MO
L.C. Coghill	Fall 00	West Pike (3)	Grad school

<u>Name</u>	<u>ST Semester</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Year Employment</u>	<u>Current Employment</u>
<b><u>1999-2000 Class</u></b>			
Jason Timerman	Spring 00	Westmer (1) Jerseyville (3)	IA instructor Sherrard, IL
Mike Frederickson	Fall 99	CHSAS (1) Harvard (2)	?????

Currently, there are 5 students that are arranged to student teach this upcoming 2024-2025 academic year. I will have four student teachers planned for the fall 2024 semester, which is **Ms. Tessa Sargeant (Pleasant Plains), Ms. Ella Cagwin (Kewanee), Mr. Jett Vickery (Lincolnwood), and Ms. Kenzie Kolodziejski (Canton)**. I will have one student teacher planned for the spring 2025 semester, which is, **Ms. Brooke Benhoff (Unity-Mendon)**.

I also would like to highlight WIU students who are currently provisionally licensed in Illinois that are teaching agriculture currently, which I think highlights the effectiveness of the School of Agriculture to prepare students with a well-rounded education in agriculture to be able to teach high school students. They are:

Abby Smith Harrison = Lewistown HS  
 Max Look = Farmington HS  
 Matt Hampton = Northwestern-Palmyra HS

Tommy Wood = Midwest Central  
Jennifer Honnold = Chrisman HS  
Mason Vincent = AC Central HS  
Morgan Lemley = Pleasant Plains HS  
Darin DeNeal = Carrier Mills-Stonefort HS  
Kelsey Handy = Triopia HS  
Logan Runyon = North Mac HS

There were 13 students enrolled in the Introductory Agricultural Education Course (AgEd 131) this year. They traveled over 900 miles as a group, visiting over two different high school agricultural education programs in Illinois. They had to log in at least 10 hours of classroom observation to meet the course requirements.

The students enrolled in the Planning and Organizing Ag Ed Programs Course (AgEd 331) conducted Ag Literacy Projects with the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes at St. Paul Elementary School. They logged in over 15 hours of instruction time to complete this project. We taught lessons virtually using the Farm Bureau Ag Mags on dairy, biotechnology, pizza, soybeans, apples, water, nutrition, careers, poultry, and corn.

The students enrolled in the Agriculture Methods Course (Ed 439) logged in over 12 hours of instruction time at West Prairie High School. We taught the first period in both Mr. DeCounter's and Ms. Thompson's classes, so we taught 2 classes each day in a face-to-face format.

#### External Funding:

This year the WIU's Agricultural Education Program received \$26,343 in funding for program improvement. We were able to get \$40,000 in a GAST Grant for a total of \$66,343 in external funding into the program this year. It was a very good year as far as funding was concerned. We were able to provide fifteen Ag Ed internships this year with five being current WIU students. The program also offered 10 internships to high school students. We are looking to expand the internships to more community college and high school students to increase our transfer and new students into the program. We were able to offer \$5000 worth of Ag Ed scholarships as well.

#### CFFA/Ag Ed Club/PAS:

Being the advisor for these organizations, I feel it is necessary to report the activities of these organizations in this report. As this was a back-to-normal year, we were able to hold all of our normal events prior to the pandemic. We still hosted the Greenhand Conference (on-campus), IL FFA Association Ground Zero conference (on-campus), and the IL State FFA Job Interview CDE (in-person). Here are some of the achievements over the years from my Ag Ed majors:

National PAS Officer (2018-2019) = Sarah Nelson ('20)  
National PAS Officer (2014-2015) = Grace Foster ('16)  
National PAS Officer (2013-2014) = Riley Hintzsche ('15)  
National PAS Officer (2012-2013) = Jennifer Honnold ('14)  
National PAS 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner Ag Ed Placement Interview (2012) = Wyatt McGrew ('12)

National PAS 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner Ag Ed CPA (2012) = Kaylyn Schiber ('14)  
National PAS 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner Ag Ed Placement Interview (2013) = Riley Hintzsche ('15)  
National PAS 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner Ag Ed CPA (2013) = Riley Hintzsche ('15)  
National PAS 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner Ag Ed Placement Interview (2014) = Jennifer Honnold ('14)  
National PAS 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner Ag Ed CPA (2014) = Jennifer Honnold ('14)  
National PAS 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner Ag Ed CPA (2017) = Martin Nall ('17)  
National PAS 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner Ag Ed CPA (2018) = Mariana Roberts ('18)  
National PAS 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner Ag Ed Employment Interview (2018) = Mariana Roberts ('18)  
National PAS 6<sup>th</sup> Place Winner Ag Ed Employment Interview (2021) = Luke Jergarz ('24)  
National PAS 9<sup>th</sup> Place Winner Ag Ed Employment Interview (2022) = Kaitlyn Kane ('22)  
National PAS 1<sup>th</sup> Place Winner Floriculture Employment Interview (2022) = Luke Jergarz ('24)  
National Collegiate Ag Ambassador (2015-2016) = Leslie Borries ('16)  
National Collegiate Ag Ambassador (2015-2016) = Dusti Irwin ('17)  
National Collegiate Ag Ambassador (2009-2010) = Ashley Mason ('11)  
National Collegiate Ag Ambassador (2006-2007) = Matt Meyer ('08)  
Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers IAVAT President (2014-2015) = Jay Solomonson ('02)  
NAAE (National Association of Agricultural Educators) Teacher Mentor (IL Rep) (2016-2017) = Dr. Andy Baker  
NAAE Outstanding Early Career Teacher Region 4 Winner (2018-2019) = Bryan Schullian ('10)  
NAAE Outstanding Early Career Teacher Region (IL Rep) (2020-2021) = Riley Hintzsche ('14)  
NAAE Teachers Turn the Key Award Region 4 Recipient (2018-2019) = Riley Hintzsche ('14)  
NAAE Outstanding Middle/Secondary Agriculture Program Region 4 Winner (2020-2021) = Cambridge/Trent Taber ('15)  
NAAE Outstanding Post-Secondary Agriculture Program Region 4 Winner (2020-2021) = Dr. Andy Baker  
NAAE Outstanding Middle/Secondary Agriculture Program Region IV winner (2022-2023) = Streator/Riley Hintzsche ('14)  
NAAE Outstanding Middle/Secondary Agriculture Program Region I winner (2022-2023) = El Capitan HS in CA/Kaylyn Davenport ('14)  
NAAE Outstanding Middle/Secondary Agriculture Program (IL Rep) (2021-2022) = Sycamore/Christian Thurwanger ('17)  
Golden Owl for Teaching Excellence (2023 IL state winner) Trent Taber ('15)  
NAAE Outstanding Early Career Teacher Region (IL Rep) (2020-2021) = Trent Taber ('15)  
CATA (California Agricultural Teachers Association) Outstanding Young Teacher Award (2018-2019) = Kaylyn Davenport ('14)