



ATAT AWARDS

April 2022 Teacher Talk



APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- All awards applications are submitted online.
- **Outstanding Awards:** The application window will open on April 1 and close May 31, 2022. At this date, all applications will be sent to the Member Services committee who will select 3 finalists for each category. Those finalists will then be sent to a panel of outside jurors, who may be sponsors, industry leaders, or other stakeholders in the profession. The winners will be announced at the Agriculture Teachers Association Professional Development Conference.
- **ATAT Awards:** Each area's board members are responsible for selecting its area's recipients. Applications will close May 31, 2022.



WHY APPLY?

- Differentiation:
 - Awards set you apart from your peers and competitors
 - Increases visibility while applying for new positions, or other awards
- Recognize community and stakeholders
- Validation: Awards are a third party validation of your achievements

OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARDS

Split into three experience levels, these awards acknowledge agriculture science teachers who have shown a strong commitment to teaching and student success; excellence in teaching practices; a record of outstanding teaching effectiveness within and outside the classroom; effective course program development equally reflecting each component of the 3 Circle Model; and the ability to inspire, promote, and sustain students' growth.

The application must be filled out by the teacher who would receive the award.

OUTSTANDING TEACHER CATEGORIES



Outstanding Young Teacher: 1-5
Years of Experience



Outstanding Mid-Career
Teacher: 6-15 Years of
Experience



Outstanding Experienced
Teacher: 16+ Years of
Experience

EXAMPLE: YOUNG

able to incorporate one on one learning time. Now I realize that as teachers we only have so many minutes in a single class period and we need to deliver the content in that time but, if you notice some students are having a harder time then being able to have that one on one learning time will be beneficial to those students and will help them stay on task with everyone else. I believe it becomes a harder task to tackle if you have multiple students that are falling behind or not completely in sync with others. I try to provide time for students outside of the classroom that they may come and ask questions or seek clarification or just discuss things that may be hindering them from obtaining the material presented in class.

Describe the ways you establish a classroom community.

I unreservedly believe that to establish a strong classroom community you must create a good rapport with your students. I want my students to know that they are all important and matter in my classroom. One thing I have learned in my short career is that your students all have different backgrounds and majority have a story that tells more about them. If you take the time to get to know your students it can help you better understand the way they learn best. I also believe when your students trust you they have the tendency to respect you and participate. Another way to build a community within your classroom is to incorporate opportunities for the students to collaborate with one another. It is vital that the students are able to express the opinions and point of views to each other without feeling discriminated against. I encourage the students to create an atmosphere where they can be comfortable with each other and see subject matter from all perspectives. In my own opinion I think that ag classes are the perfect environments to establish a community feel. Most of the students are FFA students and are interested in the content we are learning and can relate it to real life experience. It makes teaching more fun when you establish that tight knit feeling within your class.

Demonstrate how you have developed and maintained professional communication with students, coworkers, and the community.

As agriculture science teachers we work closer with our students and their parents through FFA activity. However, it is crucial to maintain that professional relationship with those families involved in your program. I have established what I believe is a strong communication platform which allows me to keep my students, members, and parents updated on upcoming events within the FFA chapter and classroom. I have multiple ways of that I communicate with students and parents. I have my conference hours posted on my website, in my syllabus, and posted in my classroom. My email and phone number are also posted in all places along with hours that I am available after school hours. When needed I set up in person and virtual meeting with students in need of help or a parent with questions. I do my best to be as available as I can to answer any questions or concerns they may have. I always tell my students, if you don't tell me to talk to me I don't know what you need or what is going on.

When it comes to co-workers any ag teacher can tell you that you spend a lot of time with your teaching partners, and strong communication plays a vital role in the success of your program. I think that it is important to make sure you and your coworkers are on the same page when it comes to events, lessons, or even meetings. If there is a lack of communication problems are more likely to occur. If there are any changes, concerns, or questions regarding plans with our program I immediately will communicate with my co-worker to ensure we are on the same page. I believe that addressing any misconceptions or miscommunications in an expedient manner is crucial, this will help to keep the relationships strong. I believe it is important that the community is aware of what takes place in the classroom and the FFA program. I try to use positive social media to share our accomplishments and the things that the students are learning and creating.

When you look at any school or program, there is an audience that is very important to reach and that is the community that surrounds that school or program. Communication is a key component when getting the community involvement. If people don't know about events then it is difficult for them to be a part of them. In my opinion some of the most important resources and support come from your community, and I have learned that it makes people feel important to be included and they are more susceptible to wanting to be involved or engaged in the event that is taking place.

Explain the ways that you develop yourself as a professional educator.

EXAMPLE: MID CAREER



2021 Outstanding Mid-Career Teacher

This award acknowledges an agriculture science teacher with 6-15 years of experience who has shown a strong commitment to teaching and student success, excellence in teaching practices, a record of outstanding teaching effectiveness within and outside the classroom, effective course program development equally reflecting each component of the 3 Circle Model, and the ability to inspire, promote, and sustain students' growth.

Name
David A Laird

Area
Area III

School
James E Taylor HS (Taylor Katy FFA)

Address
3205 Canvasback St, Katy, Texas 77493

Phone
(832) 247-4233

Email
davidlaird@katyisd.org

Principal's Name
Chad Williamson

Principal's Email
ransoncwilliamson@katyisd.org

Photos
Ag Science Fair.jpg

headshot.jpg

Pig Show.jpg

Welding.jpg

Teaching Experience

This is my 15th year of teaching. I have taught:

Poeh HS - Poth, TX - Spring Semester 2006

Atascocita HS - Humble, TX - 2006 - 2009 (Chartering Ag Teacher)

Summer Creek HS - Humble, TX - 2009 - 2014 (Chartering Ag Teacher - Single Teacher Dept. 4 years)

EXAMPLE: EXPERIENCED



Outstanding Experienced Teacher

This award acknowledges an agriculture science teacher with 16+ years of experience who has shown a strong commitment to teaching and student success, excellence in teaching practices, a record of outstanding teaching effectiveness within and outside the classroom, effective course program development equally reflecting each component of the 3 Circle Model, and the ability to inspire, promote, and sustain students' growth.

Name
Lynita Foster

Area
Area IX

School
Madisonville High School

Address
2159 Hwy 75 South, Madisonville, Texas 77864

Phone
(936) 348-4269

Email
lfoster@madisonvillecisid.org

Principal's Name

Principal's Email

Photos

Teaching Experience
Madisonville CISD - 24 years

Teaching Assignments
Wildlife, Fisheries, and Ecology Management
Livestock Production
Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
Professional Communications
Advanced Animal Science
Equine Science
Small Animal Management
Animal Science
Horticulture
Landscaping
Mathematics for Struggling Students



ATAT AWARDS

- The Agriculture Teachers Association presents awards to recognize members and supporters who have shown outstanding support to Texas agriculture science and FFA programs. Awards are presented at Conference.
- Each award must include a completed Award Nomination Form. Some awards require additional materials; read the award's specific instructions to ensure you include all necessary information.
- All awards will be based upon activities for one school year.
- A teacher is eligible to receive an award in more than one category.
- Any agricultural science teacher applying for an award or receiving an award must be an Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas member.

OUTSTANDING
SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATOR

- Administrators are recognized for promotion of agricultural science and FFA programs.

EXAMPLE

Statement of Nomination
For Outstanding School Administrator Award

To whom it may concern:

Mrs. Dairdre Medina, founding principal at IDEA Palmview College Preparatory School, has been instrumental in developing our campus vision of agriculture education for all. When a new IDEA school opens, we begin our College Prep. with only 6th graders and Academy with K-2. Each year, we add the next grade level and continue to do so until we have a full K-12 campus. The goal is for 100% of our IDEA Palmview Aggies to have agriculture education classes K-12. Mrs. Medina was one of the administrators to come up with this goal of ag. education for the whole campus, and has been influential in getting this done. I was hired to teach our first group of 6th graders and am currently teaching a class we call Agriculture Career Explorations. Next year we will offer ag. education classes to our 6th and 7th graders, and have already hired another certified and experienced agriculture teacher for 2021-2022.

As we cannot charter our FFA chapter until our students reach 8th grade in 2022-2023, we began a 4-H club open only to students on our campus. Mrs. Medina made it possible for ALL of our students membership dues to be paid for, and has ensured that this will be the case for years to come as we plan on continuing our 4-H program in conjunction with our FFA chapter giving 100% of our 3rd-12th grade students opportunities through both programs.

We have already made some big purchases to move our program forward including a brand new livestock trailer. As the first ever IDEA school to house an agriculture program, we naturally got many questions and concerns about such a large purchase. With Mrs. Medina's guidance and determination to have a successful program, we were able to get our trailer just in time for the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show where we had exhibitors in both the market rabbit and market hog shows. We've also already had students compete in Ag. Product ID contests and the Rio Grande Valley Winter Vegetable Show. Mrs. Medina helps support our program by finding the funds to pay for our students entries and supplies needed to participate and prepare for these activities.

To be honest, I have now worked at 3 different school districts in Texas, and for one in California, and I have yet to see a principal so personally involved in the agriculture science program. She has a vision for our campus and our students, understands the competition, leadership and scholarship opportunities that will be available to our students through ag. youth programs, and has been a wonderful support for me as the initial ag. education teacher at our campus.

I highly recommend Mrs. Medina for the Outstanding School Administrator Award.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Sidney Lee



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Awards
Outstanding School Administrator Award

Award Recipient Information

Name
Dairdre Medina

School:
IDEA Palmview College Prep.

Area
X

Business
Email
dairdre.medina@ideaspublicschools.org

Phone

Address
4100 N Schuertbach Rd, Mission, Texas 78574

Principal's Name
Dairdre Medina

Principal's Email
dairdre.medina@ideaspublicschools.org

Nominator Information

Name
Sidney Lee

School:
IDEA Palmview College Prep.

Area
X

Business
Email

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER ADVOCATE

- The Outstanding Chapter Advocate Award recognizes agricultural organizations, companies and individuals who have given outstanding support to agricultural education in Texas

EXAMPLE

To Whom It May Concern,

Pat Sultenfuss is an outstanding advocate of our FFA Chapter and youth development as a whole. His voice is respected as a proponent of bringing in scholarship dollars to our students. He even works to manage a memorial scholarship in his daughter's name. Additionally, he wants to see the continuation of Academy FFA at the local youth fair.

Mr. Sultenfuss works to open doors for our chapter in advancement of scholarship money brought in to our members. He is always motivating us teachers to complete in things that will allow students to win more money to advance their education.

Mr. Sultenfuss serves on a plethora of committees within our district and county to advocate for our students. He serves as an agricultural representative on our district CTE Advisory Board and on the district School Board Committee.

To continue to see our students participate at the youth fair he has been an outspoken voice with our administration and school board to advance the construction of our school barn. He has put in the time to get face to face time with our administration to persuade them in a way that only a community member with a true investment in the program can. He has seen Academy ISD demographics change and is on top of the movement to support those students who do not have the opportunity to keep a project at home.

While Pat does not send emails or text messages his long conversations with a very thorough and thought out point benefits our chapter greatly. Academy FFA is very fortunate to have Pat Sultenfuss as a chapter advocate and we are better because of his efforts.



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Awards
Outstanding Chapter Advocate Award

Award Recipient Information

Name
Pat Sultenfuss

Area
12

Business

Phone
(254) 493-4530

Address
8891 Reeds Lake Road, Rogers, Texas 76569

Principal's Name
Logan Charney

Principal's Email
logan.charney@academyisd.net

Nominator Information

Name
Arlene Setlak

Area
12

Business

School:
Academy High School

Email
psultenfuss@hotmail.com

School:
Academy High School

Email

OUTSTANDING PUBLICATION

- Newspapers, magazines, and other publications are recognized for promotion of agricultural science and FFA programs.
- This award is presented to the publication as a whole, rather than an individual.

EXAMPLE

ATAT Publication Award

Ralls is a very small community in Crosby county. We are located 30 miles east of Lubbock. There are only 3 schools in our County. We have a lot of community support for Agriculture. I think the reason is the publicity we receive from our local paper. Mrs. Valentine is always willing to come to every event whether it be a banquet, county show or just to support the students in FFA. Not one time has she denied coming out for one of our events to take pictures. Mrs. Valentine is owner of the local paper and works very hard to let the local county know what is going on in the community. She is very nice and easy to talk to.

All the pictures she takes of our school events are free of charge to the school.

Duane French
Ralls FFA



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Awards
Outstanding Publication Award

Award Recipient Information

Name
Breida Valentine

Area 1	School: Ralls
Business Crosby County News	Email crosbycountynews@windstream.net

Phone
(806) 253-0211

Address
P.O. Box 1115, 817 Main Street, Ralls, Texas 79357

Principal's Name
Miguel Salazar

Principal's Email
msalazar@rallsisd.org

Nominator Information

Name
Duane French

Area 1	School: Ralls
Business	Email

OUTSTANDING AUDIO BROADCAST

- Radio stations, podcasts, and other broadcasts are recognized for promotion of agricultural science and FFA programs.
- This award is named to the broadcast as a whole rather than an individual.

EXAMPLE

Statement of Nomination

KGAS 104.3 is a local broadcasting station located in Carthage, Texas. They have been major supporters of our FFA program and other local chapters by providing our members with free air time during the Panola County Jr Stock Show season and National FFA Week.

KGAS each year visits Panola County FFA Chapters and records its members as part of the National FFA Week propaganda. During each day of FFA Week, FFA members from Beckville, Carthage and Gary can be heard throughout the day speaking about the FFA and it's many advantages.

The month leading up to the Panola County Livestock Show, FFA and 4H members can come into the radio station to record a 30 second advertisement about their Livestock and/or Ag Mechanic projects. This helps community members learn about the different students personally and aides in recruiting buyers for the show's sale.

KGAS has continuously supported not only our FFA chapter, but several others within our county. We would like to nominate them for this award due to the past, current and future support of the Texas FFA.

Thank you for your consideration,
Amy Podlewski
Beckville FFA
podlewskia@beckvilleisd.net



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Awards
Outstanding Audio Broadcast Award

Award Recipient Information

Name
Jerry Hansen

Area
6

Business
KGAS

Phone
(803) 693-7176

School:
Beckville Jr/Sr High

Email
judy@kgasradio.com

Address
200 West Wellington St, Carthage, Texas 75633

Principal's Name
Philip Works

Principal's Email
worksip@beckvilleisd.net

Nominator Information

Name
Amy Podlewski

Area
6

Business

School:
Beckville

Email

OUTSTANDING TELEVISION STATION

- Television stations are recognized for promotion of agricultural science and FFA programs.
- This award is named to the television station rather than an individual.

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER PUBLICITY AWARD

- The Outstanding Chapter Publicity Award recognizes agriculture science teachers who successfully publicize and promote their program and agricultural education via media, both traditional and digital.
- The Outstanding Chapter Publicity Award will be judged based on the following criteria. Each question will be worth a total of 50 points:
 - A. Creativity/Variety
 - B. Effectiveness: Was the target audience reached? How many people were reached? Did the media promotions accomplish the intended purpose? What results were seen as a result of the promotion?
 - C. Quality of Documentation: Examples of documentation include newspaper clippings, magazine layouts, scripts from radio programs, photographs of billboards or other public displays, sound or movie files of television or radio coverage, referrals to chapter websites, links to chapter social media channels, social media engagement numbers, etc. Electronic submission must be in Adobe PDF format and must also not exceed 10 pages.

EXAMPLE

Outstanding Chapter Publicity Award

It takes a lot of heart and dedication to be an Ag Teacher. Not only do you have to do your job, but you have to take your own free time and spend it on your students and the community. I am nominating Christy Capps for the Outstanding Chapter Publicity Award because of how much she cares about letting the public know about the Magnolia West FFA Chapter. She is always making sure she recognizes all of the FFA Members who are doing something outstanding. She strives to get the community involved by posting daily on the FFA's facebook page or emailing parents about upcoming events. She has taken the time to learn how social media works and what kind of platform it is. Without her providing this for parents, students, and the community we would not have the chapter that we do today. It has sparked new interests in the FFA and allowed for people to become familiar with what FFA is all about. Communication is key and without Christy Capps the Magnolia West FFA Chapter would not be as recognized by the public like it is today.



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Awards
Outstanding Chapter Publicity Award

Award Recipient Information

Name
Christy Capps

Area
11

Business
School:
Magnolia West High School
Email
ccapps2@magnoliastd.org

Phone
(832) 452-0604

Address
42202 FM 1774, Magnolia, Texas 77354

Principal's Name
Ben King

Principal's Email
bking@magnoliastd.org

Nominator Information

Name
Kate Crossley

Area
11

Business
School:
Magnolia West HS
Email



BOARD SELECTED AWARDS

- ATAT VIP
- ATAT Champion
- Legislative Award
 - Recognizes a Texas legislator who has stood up for Agriculture Education over the course of a session. Given in years with a legislative session.
- If you would like to see someone nominated to receive one of these awards, please give that information to one of your board members.



NAAE AWARDS

- NAAE maintains an awards program to recognize the accomplishments of our many talented and dedicated members. The following awards require state judging. **Applicants must be NAAE members. The deadline to have applications turned in to NAAE is May 15, 2022.**
- We encourage our members who are also NAAE members to apply for their awards.
- Award categories and application information can be found at **www.naae.org/resources/awards**