



Illinois Leadership Council for Agricultural Education

Promote education in and about agriculture.

Address the changing needs of agricultural education to strengthen its viability and competitiveness to serve industry.

Develop investment opportunities involving human and financial capital for the benefit of all groups having interest in agricultural education.

ILCAE Meeting, December 4, 2020, Virtual via Zoom

In attendance: *Member

Luke Allen	Eric Hurelbrink	*Rod Reich
Casey Bolin	John Heiser	Bob Rohrer
*Holly Bauman	Karen Jones	Becky Ropp
Patrick Barry	DeLoss Jahnke	*Karen Schieler
Jared Brown	*Chris Kendall	*Aimee Shasteen
*Allyn Buhrow	John Kabat	Joshua Stafford
Jerry Brockett	Andrew Klein	*Haley Siergiej
Mindy Bunselmeyer	Emma Kuhns	*Holly Spangler
*Dave Catron	Lucas Maxwell	*Tyler Strom
Melinda Charbonneau	Ben Meyer	Jay Solomonson
Megan Coy	Theresa Meers	Molly Schempp
*Al Dietz	Charlie Meier	*Dan Swanson
Dawn Dietter	Lexi Mueller	Stan Toepfer
Dean Dittmar	*Don Moffitt	*Cynthia Tucker
Doug Falk	Jessica Nardulli	Marget Vaessen
Jesse Faber	Jodi Oliver	Jennifer Waters
*Jeff Galle	Katie Pratt	*Kaitlin Weitekamp
*Warren Graeff	Ryan Tate	*Greg Webb
Susan Graham	Jil Tracy	Ryan Wildman
*Doug Hanson	Cynthia Tucker	*Michael Zecher
Bill Harmon	Sonya Harper	

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Allyn Buhrow, at 9:04 AM.

Introductions by Allyn Buhrow

Annual Awards and Advocacy awards presented by Dean.

Bill Johnson Excellence in Education

-Debra Korte, Director for Learning Innovation and E-Learning, College of ACES, University of Illinois

Excellence in Agribusiness

-Becky Ropp, Director, Compliance & Communications, GROWMARK, Inc.

Excellence in Media

-DeLoss Jahnke, Network Anchor/Editor, RFD Illinois

Jim Guilinger Legislative

-Senator Scott Bennett, 52nd District

To secure the future of agriculture in Illinois through the continual advancement of quality agriculture education



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- Senator Jil Tracy, 47th District
- Representative Sonya Harper, 6th District
- Representative Charlie Meier, 108th District

Perry Schneider Special Recognition

- Katie Pratt, Coordinator, Lee County Ag In The Classroom
- Bob Rohrer, Manager, Cook County Farm Bureau

Advocacy Award Winners by IAVAT District

District	Name	Title	School
1	Melinda Charbonneau	AITC County Coordinator	Boone, DeKalb and Ogle Counties
2	Dawn Dieter	FFA Alumni Member	Mendota FFA Alumni
3	Holly Bauman	Marketing Specialist, Agriculture	Lincoln Land Community College
4	Eric Hurelbrink	Principal	Meridian High School at Macon
5	Joshua Stafford	Superintendent	Vienna High School

Motion made to Approve the September 2, 2020 meeting minutes made by Michael Zecher, Second By Dan Swanson. Motion: Passed

Public Comment: None

ISBE update made by Andrew Klein. Andrew gave his background and he started in November. Andrew discussed his job description and provided a written update as well as where current grants stand. Special projects on curriculum, working on reports and the Agriculture Education rules. Updated everyone where the FCAE Grant renewal stands to extend for one year right now. Updated everyone where Karen Schieler stands to get on ICAE and the process of appointing her. Allyn welcomed Andrew to his new position.

Old Business:

1. No new updates on Karen Schieler ICAE Membership.
2. Secretary Vacancy: reach out to Allyn or Dean if interested.



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3. Ag Ed 365 Advocacy fund update was given by Mindy. Mindy let the group know that we are 3-4 months behind. If you are looking to support this program to reach out to Dean, Allyn or Mindy.

New Business:

1. Sustaining and Increasing the AFNR Talent Pipeline of Quality Employees:

Mr. Greg Webb gave an update on this topic. Talked about the visibility of the agriculture industry. Luke Allen shared information about the webinar and the schools in the Urban area and about pilot projects with schools who are interested in. The goal is to have one school/ principal to get it started. Working with Universities to focus on urban training. [Mindy Bunselmeyer](#) talked about diversifying themselves and talked about the state task force on diversity and inclusion. She talked about the state survey that had 169 teachers fill out their survey on diversity and inclusion in Illinois and they have an upcoming meeting to look at the data. Luke Allen talked about his strategies to help create urban agriculture programs. Tyler Strom talked about industry's ideas to get more employees through the IL Ag & Food Alliance Workforce group. They look at the gap at the workforce and what are some of the issues behind the gap and what opportunities people feel are in Agriculture. Some of the issues: Lack of understanding of Food and Agriculture, talked about the low number of students that are educated about agriculture, talked about the historical view of agriculture, lack of focus on urban agriculture and future focus on agriculture, talked about the lack of diversity. Some opportunities they saw were in the urban area, how to enhance the message of agriculture, mentoring, internships, partnership with University of Illinois, about student financial resources. Talk about being a rich discussion and look forward to future meetings. Dean talked about what are some priorities and need collaborative effort to come up with the career videos.

Karen Schieler talked about their clients' struggle to find employees. Don Moffitt talked about some of past success with an increasing number of female students. Question on tracking students from Chicago AgScience program where the graduates are going into agriculture and answer was yes. Susan Graham talked about keeping students in Illinois and going to our Universities and Colleges. Luke Allen talked about the Chicago program/ partnership with NIU and asked if this group could help NIU maybe start an AFNR program.

2. Existing and Future Agricultural Education Curriculum

Doug Hanson talked about the Curriculum committee had met. Talked about who the committee members are (Moffitt, Galle, Zecher and Hanson). Talked about Ag Business update and the next curriculum to focus on Urban Agriculture and that an RFP will be put out for any NEW curriculum. Talked about the Safety curriculum that is a focus of ILCAE. Committee has decided currently there are safety units already in MyCaert. The committee feels all safety lessons/ units need to be updated. So, the committee wants to see a new curriculum just for safety. The curriculum is going to focus on one or two areas to come up with a template. Year ago there was a survey sent out to Ag Teachers on Curriculum needs and the committee feels the survey on curriculum needs to go out again. Moffitt talked about the need of grain bin safety as an area of need. Dean talked



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about the 80 revisions for the Agribusiness curriculum and that this is a one year project. Doug Falk gave an update on where CEC stands currently on the Agribusiness Curriculum revisions updates. Jeff Galle talked about safety components needed in the curriculum.

3. State Legislature and Governor's Office Update

Patrick Barry gave a legislative update and the cancellation of the veto session. Patrick talked about hoping to see a legislative calendar soon. Patrick then talked about the possible Lame Duck Session. Jessica Nardulli then spoke about budget issues, encharge to advocate for agriculture education interest. Patrick then touched on the open meeting act. [Jesse Faber](#) thanked everyone for time and support of the agriculture education and legislative committee.

4. New Member Nominations and Elections

-Cynthia Tucker
-Holly Spangler
-Warren Graeff

Motion to approve nomination by Karen Jones and Second Allen Dietz
Motion Passed

5. Non-Allowable Expenditures for ILCAE in the FCAE Budget

Allyn explained non allowable expenses and talked that FCAE budget can not be used on awards and food. Dean talked about the \$1,400 last year. Plaques cost \$240. Talked about the cost publication for Ag Day. Dean talked about possible options/ sponsors. Dave Cattron commented that the sponsorship would be the best option.

6. Future Meeting Dates and Time Length for Each Meeting

February 5, 2021: Virtual meeting from 9am-noon by Dave Cattron and second Dan Swanson and Motion passed

Additional Comments:

Doug Hanson brought up the FCAE Grant and possible changes. Doug brought up the idea about ILCAE forming a committee looking in the moving FCAE from grant to a contract possibly. Dean talked about the extension of the FCAE project right now and ISBE is looking into rule changes. Dean talked about training for new and current members for ILCAE and have break out rooms about the history and function of ILCAE at the next meeting.

Dean Dittmar was recognized and thanked for 30 years through the University of Illinois College of ACES Career Achievement Award serving Agricultural Education by Chair Buhrow.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 am. Motion to adjourn by Allen Dietz, seconded by Doug Hanson. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
John Heiser
FCAE Program Advisor District 1