



Washington Agriculture Education Update

Rebecca Wallace, rebecca.wallace@k12.wa.us, (360) 725-6244

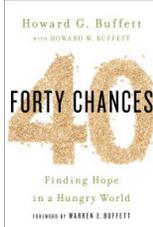
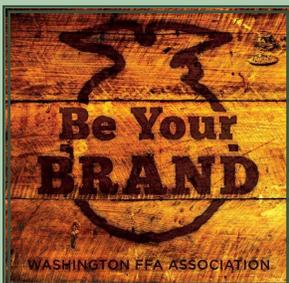


Special points of interest:

- NAAE Region I Conference Information
- NAAE Convention Highlights
- Precision Exams Offered for Agricultural Testing

Washington FFA Website:

www.washingtonffa.org



Please take the time to send the foundation a thank you letter, which can be sent digitally on the online form at: www.thehowardbuffettfoundation.org/contact-us/

I hope this finds you well rested after a deserved winter break. As we embark on a new year, I am excited about the challenges and opportunities we have to continue to make a difference in the lives of students through agricultural education and the FFA. We only get so many "chances" to make a difference, and we certainly don't want to waste them. This fall, each FFA chapter in the nation was mailed a copy of 40 Chances from the Howard G Buffett Foundation. This excerpt from the book sticks with me,

"..You'll get forty chances to plant your crop, adjust to what nature throws at you, and hope for the best. It's enough time to learn to do it well. But it's not forever. Some of you are well into your forty chances already. You've learned from your mistakes, but I'd guess that none of you feel you can afford to take a single year left on your string for granted."

That really applies to much more than farming, and it certainly applies to education. We have a limited amount of time to make an impact on our students. We continue to refine our teaching methods and strategies, adjust to new policies and procedures, cultivate learning within our classroom, and do our best to help students grow and develop far beyond the classroom. Then we hope for the best. My continued respect goes to all of you who are making the most of your "Forty Chances" every day. If I can be of any assistance, please let me know.

NAAE WESTERN REGION 1 AG ED CONFERENCE

The Region 1 NAAE conference will be held at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort on April 16 through the 18, near Honolulu on the island of Oahu. Registration for the conference is \$295 prior to March 1, 2014, and after March 1, rises to \$350. The cost of registration includes a banquet meal on Wednesday April 16, as well as breakfast and lunch on Thursday and Friday, the 17th and 18th of April. The hotel room cost of \$200 includes the mandatory resort fee that is common among all housing options in Hawaii, but does not include parking, if you plan to rent a car. The conference rate has been extended to include three days prior and three days after the conference if you plan to extend your stay in Hawaii. There is also an optional luau being offered to be held on Friday April 18. Washington's own Gary Parkert is coordinating the conference, and can answer any questions you may have via email at gparkert@comcast.net



or via telephone at (253) 318-3778. If you have any questions about the conference schedule and details, you can contact Region 1 Vice President Nick Nelson at nick.nelson@bluecc.edu. Aloha!

DUPONT/PIONEER CASE SCHOLARSHIPS DUE FEBRUARY 15th



PIONEER

DuPont/Pioneer has generously allocated \$300,000 towards CASE institute travel and registration, purchase of equipment, and/or the acquisition of software to implement a CASE course. To be eligible to apply, you must have current NAAE membership, and fill out the application by February 15th. Teachers may request up to \$5,000 to attend any of the thirty CASE institutes offered this summer or purchase CASE materials. To apply, please visit the CASE website at case4learning.org, and follow the Scholarships/Grants link from the Professional Development tab. Not a current NAAE member? Visit naae.org to learn about membership costs and benefits.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
EDUCATION
OLD CAPITOL BUILDING
PO BOX 47200
OLYMPIA, WA 98504
Phone: 360-725-6244
Fax: 360-586-9321
E-mail: rebecca.wallace@k12.wa.us

2013 NAAE ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



From Left to Right: Back Row: Dennis Burchett, Dan White, Michael Jeske, Daniel Tedor, Stacy Lischke, NAAE President Kevin Stacy. Front Row: Becky Wallace, Gary Parkert, Matt Asplund, Mike Sheppard, Elaine Lewis, Amy Cable, Tamara Whitcomb, and Elizabeth Graaff.

Nice Job!

The 65th Annual NAAE convention hosted over 500 attendees, provided over 60 professional development workshops for educators, and recognized more than 70 agricultural educators and partners for their contributions to the profession. The conference was held in conjunction with the ACTE CareerTech Vision 2013 conference. The 2014 conference will be held in November in Nashville, Tennessee.

The NAAE conference included 75 minute idea labs, and 30 minute snap learning spots, recognition for award winners, and plenty of opportunities to network with agricultural education and industry professionals from across the nation. If you are interested in attending these conference in the future, it is recommended to speak to our officers or past attendees to learn more. There is also a justification letter available for use within school districts.



Congratulations to Erica Whitmore, who retired the position of NAAE Region I Vice President at the 2014 NAAE Conference. This marked the end of a three year commitment to serve the region. Erica teaches at both Odessa and Harrington High Schools, and represented our state and region with pride. Erica, you are appreciated, and thank you for your service!

NAAE WASHINGTON AWARD WINNERS



Mike Wallace, of Quincy High School accepts the Outstanding Service Citation for Region I. Mike was one of six individuals in the nation to receive this award on December 6 in Las Vegas.



Amy Cable, of Mt. Vernon High School was one of 41 individuals nationwide who received the Teachers Turn the Key Award on December 7. Amy's travel and registration to the conference was part of the award.

TAMARA WHITCOMB SELECTED FOR XLR8 PROGRAM



Above is Tamara focused and working in one of the many XLR8 sessions during the 2013 NAAE Convention.

Tamara Whitcomb of Mount Baker High School was one of twenty individuals selected from across the nation to take part in the inaugural XLR8 Institute. This professional development experience was created for teachers within their 7th-15th year teaching, and included intensive professional development during the NAAE convention, as well as a commitment to take part in recurring virtual learning experiences, online collaboration through NAAE Communities of Practice, and use of other social media tools. As part of her selection, Whitcomb's travel and registration to NAAE convention was covered. The XLR8 program was sponsored by CSX as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. If you have questions about her experience, Tamara can be contacted via email at twhitcomb@mtbaker.wednet.edu.

STACY LISHKE: NATIONAL AGRISCIENCE TEACHER AMBASSADOR



Stacy Lishke of Snohomish High School was one of the DuPont National Agriscience Teacher Ambassadors this year. As an ambassador, Stacy had the opportunity to present at both the National FFA Convention and the NAAE Convention. Alongside her team; teachers from Wisconsin, Nevada, and North Carolina– Stacy presented the Importance of Sustainability activity, a workshop developed through the DuPont Agriscience Institute. The institute pays for specially selected teachers from across the United States to travel to DuPont Chesapeake Farms to learn how to incorporate inquiry science into current curriculum. Attendees then facilitate these workshops at professional development opportunities for other teachers.



Washington teachers Tamara Whitcomb and Mike Sheppard were actively engaged in one of the many DuPont workshops offered at the annual NAAE convention.



PRECISION EXAMS OFFERS ASSESSMENTS FOR CTE COURSES

Precision Exams currently provides over 140 Career Skills Certification exams, that align to National Career Clusters. The Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resource options are tied to our National Agricultural, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Career Cluster Content Standards, the industry standards that all courses should be including in curriculum and instruction. The cost of the assessment is \$2.50 per exam, and there is no minimum or maximum number of exams that can be purchased.

Exams offered in the Agriculture strand include: Agricultural Communication and Leadership, Agricultural Science 1,2, and 3, Agricultural Systems Technology 1 and 2, Agricultural Business and Management, Animal Science 1 and 2, Equine Science A and B, Floriculture and Greenhouse Management A and B, Landscape Management, Natural Resource Science 1 and 2, Nursery Operation, Plant and Soil Science 1 and 2, Veterinary Assistant, Welding Technician Entry, Intermediate, and Advanced.

If you are interested in more information about the exams or how to implement them within your school, information can be found via <http://www.precisionexams.com>, or by contacting Adam Sanchez our implementation specialist at (801) 653-9356 or via email at asanchez@precisionexams.com.



FOLLOW WASHINGTON FFA ON TWITTER!



Washington FFA
@WashingtonFFA



CASE

Curriculum for Agricultural
Science Education

Interested in attending the
Washington CASE institute
for Plant Science, July 20-
29th in Prosser, Washington?
Contact Becky at
rebecca.wallace@k12.wa.us
ASAP!

Course Approvals

Is your district in Group 3 on
the CTE Course Approval
Schedule? Reminder: The
deadline for submitting
re-approval information is
January 31st for courses to
be taught next year.
Have a course you want to
teach next year that is not
currently approved? These
courses are due no later than
April 15.

NATIONAL FFA SCHOLARSHIPS DUE FEB. 1

In 2013, the National FFA offered 1,726 individual scholarship worth over \$2.1 million, with approximately one of every four students who apply, receiving a scholarship. That is pretty good odds for our Washington FFA members that take the time to apply. The selection process includes FFA involvement, work experience, SAE, community service,

leadership skills, and academics. The 2014 scholarship application is due online via AgCN, at www.ffa.org no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on February 1, 2014. The required signature page must be completed and mailed to National FFA, postmarked no later than February 8, 2014. More information is available at ffa.org and questions about the process, due dates, or can be directed at scholarship@ffa.org.

WASHINGTON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



The Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) is a five day event held in Washington D.C., that empowers members to serve their school, community, and country. The conference is offered seven different weeks this summer; registration opens March 3, 2014, and often fills up quickly. The cost of student registration to attend is \$744., and there is an advisor program offered as well. Visit the WLC page on the National FFA website for more information.

WHERE ARE OUR STATE OFFICERS?

The Washington state officer team is currently in South Africa until January 14 on the International Leadership Seminary for State Officers (ILSSO) The team traveled to Johannesburg on January 4, and a full itinerary of their trip is available online if you are interested.

We wish our team a safe and meaningful adventure, and look forward to hearing of their amazing experience upon their return.



Washington at National FFA Convention

Upcoming Dates of Interest:

A complete state calendar of events is available at the [WAAE Groupspaces](#) page.

January 24: Washington FFA Board and Foundation Meeting: Cle Elum.

January 28-30: National Ag Ed Summit/National FFA Inservice: Indianapolis, Indiana

Feb 1-2: 212/360 Leadership Training: Wenatchee, WA

April 16-18: NAAE Region I Conference, Waikiki Beach, HI