

Thompson, Ellen

Page: Basic Information

Nominator Information

Please provide your information as the nominator of this partnership.

Your Name

Thompson, Ellen

Email Address

ethompson.naae@uky.edu

Title

National Teach Ag Campaign Director

Employer

National Association of Agricultural Educators

Phone Number

6053503842

Your Relationship to the Partnership?

Growth Energy is a five year supporter of the National Association of Agricultural Educators advancing agriscience education and ensuring a quality and diverse supply of agriculture teachers.

The Partners: Business & Industry

Please provide basic information on the business and industry organizations involved in the partnership.

Business/Industry Partner 1

Business/Organization Name

Growth Energy

Address

701 8th St NW Suite 450
Washington District of Columbia 20001 US

Website

www.growthenergy.org

Main Career Clusters within Industry

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources

Point of Contact

Mr. Kelly Manning

Title

Vice-President of Development

Email

kmanning@growthenergy.org

Business/Industry Partner 2 (if applicable)**Business/Organization Name****Address****Website****Main Career Clusters within Industry****Point of Contact****Title**

Email

Business/Industry Partner 3 (if applicable)

Business/Organization Name

Address

Website

Main Career Clusters within Industry

Point of Contact

Title

Email

Provide information on any other additional business & industry partners not listed above. Also, please use this opportunity to briefly explain the unique roles of these businesses in the partnership (if there are more than one involved.)

The Partners: Educational Institutions & Programs

Please provide basic information on the educational institutions and/or programs involved in the partnership.

Education Partner 1

Educational Institution/Program Name

National Association of Agricultural Educators

Address

300 Garrigus Building
Lexington Kentucky 40546-0215 US

Website

www.naae.org/teachag

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Other

Point of Contact

Dr. Jay Jackman

Title

Executive Director

Email

jjackman.naae@uky.edu

Education Partner 2 (if applicable)**Educational Institution/Program Name**

Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education

Address

300 Garrigus Building
Lexington Kentucky 40546-0215 US

Website

www.case4learning.org

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Other

Point of Contact

Dr. Dan Jansen

Title

Project Director

Email

dan.jansen@case4learning.org

Education Partner 3 (if applicable)**Educational Institution/Program Name**

National FFA Organization

Address

6060 FFA Drive
Indianapolis Indiana 46268 US

Website

www.ffa.org

What type of institution is it? (If a program, where is it offered?)

Other

Point of Contact

Mr. Mark Poeschl

Title

CEO

Email

mpoeschl@ffa.org

Provide information on any other education partners not listed above. Also, please use this opportunity to briefly explain the unique roles of these educational institutions/programs in the partnership (if there are more than one involved.)

The National Association of Agricultural Educators, the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education and the National FFA Organization work collaboratively to advance agriscience education, agricultural careers, agriculture advocacy and the recruitment and retention of high quality and diverse agriculture teachers who will cultivate the next generation of leaders, problem solvers, entrepreneurs and agriculturalists.

1. What problem was this partnership developed to solve?

The partnership between Growth Energy and NAAE, CASE and FFA was developed to create additional opportunities for students and teachers across the country as a way to advance agriscience education, improve advocacy efforts related to agricultural education and ensure a quality and diverse supply of agriculture teachers. The financial and in-kind resources provided by Growth Energy have contributed to an increase in the number of teachers implementing project based learning, an increased number of students participating in civic leadership and an upward trend in recruiting future agriculture teachers while retaining current teachers.

2. What steps were taken to get the partnership started?

The partnership began through the work of the National FFA Foundation meeting with Growth Energy representatives in spring 2014. Growth Energy was looking for a way to support youth development in agriculture. Through the discussions the National FFA Foundation team identified three key support areas for Growth Energy to consider: teacher recruitment and retention, agriscience education and student advocacy and civic leadership training. After quick consideration Growth Energy committed to support agricultural education sustainability and advancement by investing in all three areas.

3. Describe how the partnership was designed to support high-quality CTE.

Agriscience Education - Students need authentic learning experiences. The Curriculum for Agriscience Education (CASE) is a comprehensive series of pathways designed to empower students to take responsibility for their own learning and give teachers the tools they need to be facilitators of content and learning objectives. Growth Energy partnered with the CASE development team to create the Environmental Science Issues (ESI) course in the Natural Resources pathway.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention - The key foundation to high quality CTE and high quality student experiences starts with a quality and diverse supply of teachers. Through the partnership with Growth Energy the National Teach Ag Campaign, led by the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE), was able to expand programs designed to recruit and retain school based agriculture teachers including student teacher scholarships, teacher professional development, recruitment workshops and event representation, preservice internships with current teachers, National Teach Ag Day (Growth Energy hosted in 2016), Teach Ag ambassadors and much more.

Civic Leadership and Advocacy - The National FFA Organization is a youth organization of more than 650,000 members that prepares students for 230+ agriculture related careers by growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture. Growth Energy supports that National FFA Organization Washington Leadership Conference as well as student agriculture advocacy programs to enrich engagement opportunities for all students at the local and national level.

4. What were the results of the partnership? What was innovative about the partnership or its output? How did it benefit students and the community?

The Growth Energy and Agricultural Education partnership is ongoing. Over the past five years the partnership has contributed to many advancements.

Agriscience Education - The CASE ESI course was developed as a collaborative effort between Growth Energy, the National Association of Agricultural Educators, agriculture teachers, teacher educators and state agricultural education staff. The key to any CASE course is developing curriculum that will contribute to student inquiry development and meet rigorous classroom standards. CASE courses, like ESI, require two weeks of intense professional development for a teacher to be certified giving them the confidence and applicable knowledge needed to facilitate student learning throughout the delivery of the course. The ESI course was published and launched in 2017 after a three-year development and pilot phase. To date twenty-three teachers in ten states are ESI certified.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention - The National Teach Ag Campaign is designed to raise awareness of the need to recruit and retain high quality and diverse agriculture teachers, encourage others to consider a career teaching agriculture and celebrate the positive contributions agriculture teachers make in our schools and communities. Through the work the National Teach Ag Campaign the supply of agriculture teachers has improved dramatically. The demand for agriculture teachers continues due to program growth, expansion, retirements and openings. The retention rate of agriculture teachers is historically high at 96%. Individuals majoring in agricultural education are increasing even as other education content areas are seeing a decrease. The conversion rate of agricultural education graduates is at an all-time high of 75%.

Civic Leadership and Advocacy - The National FFA Organization Washington Leadership Conference blends advocacy and civic engagement through seven one-week long engagement experiences in Washington, DC.

More than 2000 students and teachers participate./ 340 week

More than 5000 service hours completed.

Approximately 420,000 meals packaged.

5. What were the lessons learned during the process of building the partnership? What would you have done differently?

The unique cross-section of partners has created synergy and success for all involved. The Growth Energy organization has experienced increased interactions with students and teachers while NAAE, CASE and FFA have been able to execute high level professional development, training, leadership and growth. Growth Energy knows that investing in youth in agriculture and teachers will ensure an abundant pipeline of talent and informed consumers. While there isn't one thing we would do differently we are always looking for ways to increase communication and offer more opportunities for students and teachers.

6. Is this partnership sustainable? How do you anticipate it will change in the coming year(s)?

All great partnerships require evolution and adaptation. The Growth Energy and agricultural education partnership is no different. As the needs of all partners change the relationship will grow and fluctuate to meet the needs. Given Growth Energy's commitment to the future of agriculture we expect this to be a long and mutually prosperous partnership. Given the success of the programs Growth Energy has invested in we look for additional collaboration at the specific events including tours, guest speakers, webinars and advisory based roles.

7. How long did it take to create this partnership?

6 months - 1 year

8. How large of an investment did the businesses and other partner(s) involved make in this partnership (time and money)?

Over the course of the last five years Growth Energy has invested \$825,000 into agricultural education efforts. They are currently in year one of a new two year \$150000 commitment on top of the last four years of commitments. In addition to the financial support Growth Energy has provided direct professional development to current and future teachers, hosted teachers and students for tours at Growth Energy member plants and served as the 2016 National Teach Ag Day live celebration host site.

9. Would you or an associate be willing to present a session at an ACTE event about this partnership?

Yes