

Good Monday All,

The school year is either upon us or about to be upon us. The summer has flown past and the kids are lining up at the door for another year.

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If you've changed your name, email, school, or any other specific information please log on to the list serve site at WWW.coloradocte.com/agriculture and edit your account. Check the subscriptions to make sure you're assigned to the correct district. If you are no longer a new teacher or not serving on the advisory committee anymore please take your name off that list. I should be able to edit the lists from the administrative side but something is glitched in the system and it won't allow me to see who is signed up for the list groups.

FYI I know we had two teacher marry over the summer. In the future when you see Lauren Hart or Kaity Gains you'll know that they aren't new to the state just new last names. Congrats ladies.

Below is the list of new teachers who are joining our ranks this school year. I announced at summer institute that we had all the positions filled and several of you warned me not to get too confident. Last week Branson opened their ag position. Ginger Doherty has left to return to New Mexico in a full time science position. If any of you know of a possible teacher who could fill the Branson position contact me immediately. They can also contact Dr. Larry Birden at lbirden@bransonschoolonline.com. The position is only 1/2 time so if there is a retired instruction in Colorado or New Mexico who might be interested please pass the information on.

Here are the new teachers and teachers who are in new positions for the 09-10 school year.

Positions Filled

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Holyoke | Troy Mayfield | Experienced | Returning to Colorado |
| 2. Karval | Darrell Jones | Experienced | Colorado |
| 3. Ignacio | Kevin DesPlanques | Experienced | Colorado |

4. Idalia	Rheanna Vrbas University	Beginning	Colorado State
5. St Vrain	Lauren Frederiksen	Experienced	Colorado
6. McClave University	Ashley Hudson	Beginning	Colorado State
7. Agate University	Emily Fickbohm	Beginning	Colorado State
8. Bethune	Casey Jagers	Experienced	Colorado
9. Wiley	Amanda Melhorn	Beginning	Minnesota
10. Douglas County	Hailey Wilmer	Beginning	Montana / Cornell
11. Woodlin	Devin Engle	Beginning	Cornell University
12. LaVeta	Rachel Reuby	Beginning	University of Idaho
13. Lamar	Joel White	Experienced	Texas
14. Centauri	Robert Middleman	Beginning	Colorado
15. Sangre	Justin Tedford	Beginning	Colorado/Texas
16. La Junta	Tanya Alm	Beginning	Colorado

Bethune and Centauri will be new programs this year.

CVATA and CCCS will be working together this year to provide a new teacher induction / mentoring program for all our beginning and new to Colorado CTE teachers. We'll be in contact with the new teachers and potential mentor teachers in the near future to start the program. We applaud the efforts of CVATA in the past to drive the new teacher mentor program and look forward to working together with the professional organization to grow the program in the future.

Through CCCS funding approved by Scott Stump Dean of CTE, we will be able to provide for meetings in the fall, spring and summer for the new teachers and mentors as well as provide for our mentors to visit their new teacher in their home school during the year. Don Thorn will be coordinating the project for the coming year.

The Update from National FFA can be read here. [FFA Update](#) Content includes information on Convention registration, the new online shopping store for FFA merchandise, and a New Horizons Teaching Guide.

If you are interested in submitting a grant proposal to the Colorado Home and Garden Show for a greenhouse or any horticultural project you must have your one page letter of intent in by August 30 to the Garden Show office. More information on the program can be found at [Garden Show Grants](#)

It's been a busy summer at the National FFA office in Indy. The report of actions taken by the FFA Board of Directors and FFA Foundation Trustees are attached to this mail. I would encourage you to read the reports and stay informed of happenings at the national level. The announcement of a new Chief Operating Officer for the NFFA should be announced in the near future.

We've entered the electronic age with the CO AgEd / FFA calendar this year. [Click here](#) to see the online calendar. Thanks to Brian Cunningham for creating the calendar on Google and helping Kenton and I come up to speed on the features it provides. We'll be putting more information out soon on how you can create your own chapter, district and personal calendars on Google which will mesh with this calendar. Right now you can see every event on the FFA site. By clicking on the event you'll be able to see any specific details about the event. We will soon have any forms and applications that relate to the event linked to the calendar so it can be a one stop shop for your organization. Our hope is to provide a workshop at ALD/MFE on how to utilize the calendar and other features Google has to offer to make our lives easier.

There were several changes to the program approval site and process for the upcoming school year. I'll be sending out specific information concerning this in the near future. If you have a program renewal open now just put it on hold till you receive that information. There is new occupational outlook and career information required on the approval process that I hope to be able to provide you the data for. One thing you can start on now is Programs of Study. If you don't have one in place for your program you'll have to create one for the program to be renewed.

I had the opportunity to attend a concert this week by the performing group Up with People. This group is made up of young people 18 to 28 years old and will spend the next 12 months touring the world with their message of music as well as conducting community service in each city where they perform. I share this with you because, as I watched the performers on stage, I could see that they were living their dream. Whether they were singing, dancing, playing in the band or part of the crew, one could see that this was their passion in life and they were enjoying their work to it's fullest

We've experienced this with our students and colleagues as well. You can see it in their eyes and hear it in their voice when a student or a teacher is doing what they absolutely love. That's what education is all about. We don't just teach school, we enlighten students to find their passion in life. We empower them to follow that passion and we equip them to be successfully in that passion. Go forth and continue your excellent work. Have a great start to the new school year!