Congratulations to each student who earned a degree in Agricultural Leadership and Science Education!

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE
- Emily Christine Ade
- Wyatt S. Capps
- Wyatt Gregory Dozier
- Brooke Kiley Haag
- Lauren Elizabeth Hadden
- Madalyn Rose Hammel
- Haley Marie Haverback
- Caseylynn Annette Johnston
- Alicia Kabat
- Andrew Troy Klein
- Dylan Knisley
- Kelley Elizabeth Koester
- Willow Emily Krumwiede
- Alexander J. Magers
- Maggi G. Maxstadt
- Meg Meeker
- Joshua Michael Morgan
- Travis Nielsen
- Benjamin T. Oakley
- Jacob Rahn
- Rachel Ransom
- Reid Shipton
- Gretchen Lee Simpson
- Kaity Spangler
- Hannah Claire Story
- Megan Renee Vogt
- Jacqueline Suzanne Walters
- Kayla Michele Wills

MASTER OF SCIENCE
- Jessica Biernacki
- Kathleen Book
- Shelby Carlson
- Katherine Duitsman
- Elise Hackett
- Christopher Kniesly
- Lane W. Kreiling
- John Lidy
- Jacob Meyer
- Lisa Marie Murata
- Maria Omulubi
- Kristin Nicole Puckett
- Abigail Elizabeth Rundblom
- Courtney Ashton Walker
- Jacqueline S. Wood

“As an Agricultural Education graduate, I am grateful for my education and experiences at the University of Illinois, and I am looking forward to the next chapter.”

Madalyn Hammel
Senior, Ag Leadership Education

Forty-three students earned a Bachelor of Science or Master of Science degree in Agricultural Leadership and Science Education from the University of Illinois during the Spring Commencement on May 13, 2018. In addition to earning their degree, Brooke Haag and Rob Klein (pictured) were also recognized as Bronze Tablet Scholars. The Bronze Tablet award recognizes sustained academic achievement by undergraduate students who rank in the top three percent of the students in their graduating class at the University of Illinois. Congratulations to all!
COURSES PREPARE STUDENTS FOR

Human Development Training

Collaborative Leadership is a junior, senior, or graduate level course for students concentrating in Agricultural Leadership Education, as well as the capstone course for the campus-wide Minor in Leadership Studies. The course teaches the practice of building effective community collaborations to deal with complex societal issues. Throughout the semester, student project teams are asked to bring collaborative partners from around the community and campus to the table to address a social, environmental, or educational issue. The course goal is to communicate an inspiring vision to bring organizations together who have not necessarily collaborated in the past. This Spring, 18 remarkable teams produced proposals impacting more than 40 organizations. Projects included cancer research, women’s health, youth development, agriculture literacy, Native American understanding, autism awareness, special education, animal welfare, and working with military veterans. The Spring 2018 course was team-taught by Dr. Kari Keating, Agricultural Education Teaching Assistant Professor, and Tiffany Macke, Community & Economic Development Educator with University of Illinois Extension Unit 20. Together Keating and Macke bring more than 30 years of community development and career experience to the classroom.

ALUMNI EVENT

Wednesday, June 20th from 5-6:30 pm
Held in conjunction with the Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers (IAVAT) Conference at the Decatur Conference Center

AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP FACULTY EARNs

Outstanding Student Medal Award

Dr. Jasmine Collins, Assistant Professor of Agricultural Leadership Education, was named the 2018 recipient of the Education Alumni Association’s Outstanding Student Medal at the Doctoral degree level. The award was presented at the University of Illinois College of Education Convocation on Saturday, May 12.

As a medal recipient, Dr. Collins delivered the convocation address for her respective class at the College of Education Convocation and will also have her name listed on a plaque in the College of Education for Outstanding Graduates of the College.
STUDENT TEACHERS PARTICIPATE IN

Professional Development Trip to Florida

Following their recently completed student teaching experiences, 10 seniors in Agricultural Science Education, along with Mr. Ochs, traveled to central Florida. While in Florida, students spoke with Illinois natives and current professors at the University of Florida in the Agricultural Education and Communication department, Dr. Brian Myers and Dr. Andrew Thoron. Also, while visiting the University of Florida in Gainesville the students toured Ben Hill Griffin Football Stadium, enjoyed lunch with UF AgEd Senior Students, and observed one of Dr. Thoron’s Agricultural Education classes. In addition to visiting the university, the group had the opportunity to visit two Agricultural Education Programs, Williston High School and SunRidge Middle School. While visiting the programs, the students had the chance to gain unique insights, new perspectives, and gather ideas for engaging students in their classrooms. Additionally, the cohort was able to enjoy a relaxing day at Daytona Beach. Finally, to round out the professional development trip, the group toured AgriStarts, Inc., in Apopka, Florida. AgriStarts, Inc., is a plant tissue culture propagation company, founded by University of Illinois graduate, Randy Strode. Students saw how plants can be generated via tissue culture in a clean lab and eventually generate one of AgriStarts over 800 species sold. Overall, the students enjoyed a relaxing and educational professional development trip to Florida.

Written by Caseelyn Johnston
Senior, Ag Science Education

“Our trip to Florida was a great opportunity for us to observe agricultural education in action from a different state’s perspective! It was also great to spend one last ‘hurrah’ together as a cohort.”

Kaity Spangler
Senior, Agricultural Science Education

FACULTY & STAFF EARN

ACES Awards

Two members of the Agricultural Education Program were recognized during the College of ACES Recognition Awards banquet on April 9. Andrea Ray, Office Administrator, received the Staff Award of Excellence. Dr. Debra Korte, Teaching Assistant Professor, was awarded the Specialized Faculty Teaching Award. Congratulations to each for their outstanding accomplishments!
Two students -- Kaity Spangler and Rob Klein -- received the Agricultural Education Program Outstanding Senior Awards during the College of ACES Student Awards Banquet.

During Kaity’s time on campus, she dedicated her time, energy, and skills to engaging wholeheartedly in numerous agricultural clubs and activities. Some of her most notable leadership roles were in the following organizations: 4-H House Cooperative Sorority, the Collegiate Farm Bureau, Collegiate FFA, Ag Ed Club, and the honorary agricultural education fraternity, Alpha Tau Alpha. Beyond her involvement in co-curricular organizations, Kaity contributed greatly to the outreach and extension mission of the Agricultural Education Program and the College of ACES by serving as a member of the Explore ACES Steering Committee and helping organize both Ag Ed Day and the Illinois Greenhand Conference. At the University level, Kaity was chosen to represent the University of Illinois as a student lobbyist on Capitol Hill with the Association of Big Ten Schools and was also elected to represent the College of ACES and Ag Ed as a member of the 2018 University of Illinois Homecoming Court.

When asked about what she has learned during her time here on campus, Kaity says, “One of the most important lessons that I have learned while being a University of Illinois Agricultural Education student is to find “your people.” Whether it’s the friends you make or teachers who work hard to provide you with opportunities to succeed, they will play the most vital role in your time at school. They will be the ones you celebrate the highs of the day with, as well as the ones that will lend an ear during the lows. I was blessed with the best group of “people” who have been there with me throughout every step of this journey and I am forever grateful for their guidance.” Kaity has accepted a job with the Illinois Farm Bureau as an Associate and will start working for them in June.

Rob distinguished himself from the moment he transferred in to Ag Leadership Education. Never one to take conventional wisdom at face value, Rob sought out numerous independent study and study abroad opportunities to increase the depth and breadth of his knowledge beyond required course offerings. During his time in the Ag Ed program, Rob worked as an undergraduate teaching assistant for a large leadership course, and served as an assistant in one of the faculty labs studying the psychophysiology of wellness. He is currently in the process of writing a thesis on lifestyle factors that influence stress and recovery in freshman and sophomore honors students in the College of ACES.

Outside the classroom Rob worked at the Illinois Leadership Center for the past three years, where he facilitated over 120 hours of leadership programming for over 1,200 students. Additionally, Rob served as the president of the intercultural dialogue group, “Unite Our Campus.” One highlight of his involvement with this student organization was an event they coordinated that drew over 50 student and community members and featured several prominent guest speakers, including an actor on Grey’s Anatomy.

When asked to reflect on his time here at the University of Illinois, Rob says, “If there’s one thing I’ve learned throughout my four years on campus, it’s not to take life too seriously.” Rob was described by Ag Ed faculty and staff as, “multi-talented,” and plans to return to his hometown of Northbrook, Illinois to work on his artistic and professional endeavors.