



National conference offers agricultural learning opportunities for teachers

MANHATTAN, Kan. - July 15, 2013 - Every year, a different state hosts approximately 500 teachers and Agriculture in the Classroom representatives from all over the country to experience agriculture literacy workshops, tours and presentations from fellow teachers.

These teachers and representatives attended the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Minneapolis, Minn., June 25-28. This conference offers networking opportunities, features a keynote motivational speaker and allows representatives to feature their successes and resources.

Cathy Musick, Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom's executive director attended the event for the seventh time.

"I enjoy the energy that's generated by these folks who are passionate about teaching young people about agriculture," Musick said. About half of the 500 who attended were first-time attendees. "The future of this wonderful organization, and the future of agriculture literacy, is extremely bright."

Musick presented a workshop called "Plants have a place in the Classroom," where she shared resources to extend the growing season in classrooms.

"I showed the 40 teachers at my workshop how to make light stands that are functional and easy to use in their classrooms," she said. "Teachers can use this method to grow plants, such as wheat and soybeans, to show the life cycle of some of Kansas' important crops. Other fun lesson plans I incorporate into the workshop are Lettuce in a Bag and Potatoes in a Bag."

Andrew Zimmern, a popular television personality and chef, was the keynote speaker during the conference. He discussed the connection between food, culture and a "new agriculture" where people experience a wide variety of food sources.

Teacher of the Year attends conference

Angela Black, the 2013 Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom's Janet Sims Memorial Teacher of the Year, and eight other Walton teachers, attended the conference from a scholarship the High Plains Journal sponsors for winning the award through KFAC.

"I always feel so rejuvenated after attending an ag in the classroom conference," Black said. "I have some great ideas that I got from my awesome workshops and my field trip that I am eager to take back into my classroom. This conference always helps renew my passion into bringing agriculture to my students."



Nine Kansas teachers, including the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom Teacher of the Year, Angela Black (third from left, front row), attended the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference June 25-28, 2013 in Minneapolis, Minn.

I am extremely appreciative of

being able to attend the 2013 National Ag in the Classroom conference in Minneapolis thanks to Kansas Ag in the Classroom and High Plains Journal."

Black teaches Kindergarten at Walton Rural Life Center in Newton, Kan. She brings ag-literacy to the forefront of her classroom by allowing students to understand the influence of agriculture from farm to plate. Black uses project-based learning to integrate agriculture into her teaching.

KFAC works with the Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture and High Plains Journal to offer this award.

The Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. KFAC was founded in 1982 as part of a nationwide initiative to help students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.

For more information, visit www.ksagclassroom.org or phone (785) 320-4350.

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