

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

We are thrilled to announce that Carrie Robertson, middle school Teacher at Paul Revere Charter School and Magnet Center in Los Angeles County, is our 2022 Outstanding



CARRIE ROBERTSON, 2022 OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Educator of the Year!

Robertson recently helped lead a major renovation of the entire school farm, located on Sunset Blvd. in the heart of Los Angeles. The farm is home to goats, chickens, a potbelly pig, a garden, and fruit trees.

“Agriculture is life! All human beings are dependent on agriculture for food, clothing, and shelter,” explained Robertson. The outdoor, experiential nature of agricultural education provides so many positive benefits for students, including social skills, sensory input, and stress relief.”

A true advocate of making agriculture come alive for her students, Robertson encourages others to do the same, regardless of limited time and space for a school garden.

“Agriculture is all around us! All you have to do is make the connection.” 🌱

Honoring Past Board Member - Jim Hicks

Longtime Ag in the Classroom board member and advocate Jim Hicks passed away in September. He was 83 years old. Below are Jim’s words, written a decade ago, illustrating his commitment to agricultural education. In honor of his memory, we are re-sharing Jim’s message.



“When I was first introduced to California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, it was ‘love at first sight.’”

I frequently travel between my office in Orange County, and my home in Los Angeles County. In this area of urban sprawl, we have a second and in some cases, a third generation of kids with no ties to agriculture. These kids think their food comes from the supermarket, and that there’s always plenty of it.

That’s where the Agriculture in the Classroom program shines. The California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom programs that are well-designed, effective programs that will pay good dividends for years to come. This program is a gift that keeps on giving. Many of the students will go on to become community leaders, and both the teachers and students become enthusiastic supporters of the benefits of agriculture for the rest of their lives.”

Thank you, Jim, and the Hicks family, for your commitment to agricultural education and for being a special part of the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom family. 🌱



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hands on agriculture
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CA Ag in the Classroom Conference

We’re back!

For the first time in three years, we gathered in person for the California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference. The energy was contagious.

“This has been my favorite conference I’ve ever attended. I can’t imagine it being better!” exclaimed one teacher. Coined “AgVentura,” a nod to Ventura County, where the 2-day event took place, attendees were introduced to the agricultural bounty of the region (a top producer of berries, lemons, and nursery stock) while learning how to make agriculture come alive in their own classrooms.



“The farm tours were my favorite part! I had never attended a conference with a field trip component, and I loved how it got us outdoors to see the concepts in the real world,” said another teacher.

Nearly 200 people attended the conference, participating in hands-on activities called Make N’ Take sessions and interactive workshops, and hearing directly from the “farmer’s mouth” with a panel of producers from Ventura County. Guest speakers Christine Birdsong, Undersecretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and Coach Kia, an inspirational agricultural advocate, further inspired participants to teach the next generation about growing food, fiber, and fuel in the Golden State.

“I loved all the innovations shared,” reflected another conference participant. “This gives me hope for the future of agriculture.”

It gives us hope too. We can’t wait for next year! 🌱

SAVE THE DATE

Northern California National Agriculture Week Event

“Celebrating Agricultural Literacy”

March 24, 2023
Silt Winery



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Taste and Teach

California classrooms keep getting tastier!

Going on its sixth year, the Taste and Teach Program, sponsored by Raley's, Stater Brothers, and California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, offers 350 teachers throughout the state the opportunity to "Taste and Teach" about different California commodities.

Selected teachers received a \$100 gift card to Raley's, Bel Air Markets, and Nob Hill or Stater Bros. grocery stores to purchase featured California-grown commodities.

Boasting About Beef

We have several new resources that highlight cattle production and the benefits of beef.

Build Them Better: Understanding Cattle Genetics educates students on the importance of genetics in beef cattle production, ultimately helping students identify desirable and undesirable traits in beef cattle.



Source Sleuth

is a lesson plan that investigates credible sources about beef. Students learn strategies for identifying sources and understand

(fruits, vegetables, nuts, and dairy) each month.

Participants also received a binder full of free resources and instructions on how to lead students in a taste test while meeting California Academic Standards. 🌱



why it is important to use reliable sources. Students practice citing sources, paraphrasing data and interpreting conclusions.

Our **Behind the Beef, Surprising Cow Connections** bookmark details interesting beef facts. Did you know beef has ZIP? That's zinc, iron, and protein, all readily used by the human body.

Additionally, the new **Beef Boasts 6 Reasons Why ranchers aren't afraid to toot their own horn.** poster details surprising statistics about cattle ranching. Did you know, 90% of what cattle eat can't be digested by humans, making them invaluable to a sustainable food system?

Scan the QR code to download or order free resources. 🌱



We are California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC). Our mission is to increase awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's educators and students. Our vision is an appreciation of agriculture by all.

We are a 501 (c) (3) organization.
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