



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25 California Educators received a Literacy for Life Grant! Fresno County Educator Receives Statewide Award for Agriculture Literacy Efforts

SACRAMENTO, CA – California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC) announced Sanger school teacher, Christine Klistoff, as the recipient of CFAITC's 2020 Outstanding Educator Award through its Literacy for Life grants.

Literacy for Life grants, sponsored by the Oreggia Family Foundation, are designed to help initiate new projects or expand existing ones that promote agricultural literacy. Grants of up to \$500 are provided to California K-12 educators to support the integration of agriculture into regular classroom instruction. Each year 25 recipients are selected and one of those recipients is named CFAITC's Outstanding Educator.

"More than ever, due to this pandemic, students need to be aware of where their food comes from, how it is produced, and how crucial agriculture is to our survival. A report issued in 2015 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture projects that skilled agriculture-related jobs, requiring specific training and secondary education, will number to almost 58,000, and will be responsible for developing solutions to feed more than 9 billion people by 2050. Therefore, the future will require significant agriculture and STEM innovation to impact the global demand. If agricultural curriculum is left out of education, can you imagine all the students who might miss out on an agriculture career that they did not know existed. The Agriculture in the Classroom programs and curriculum are vital to the success of this happening – it brings learning to life with many hands-on experiences that students will love and never forget!" – Christine Klistoff.

Christine is receiving the Outstanding Educator award because of her undeniable passion for incorporating agriculture in the classroom! She was recently presented the Outstanding Educator Award during the California Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting held virtually in December. CFAITC will also be nominating Christine as a National Teacher of Excellence at the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in June. Photos available upon request.

Individuals receiving CFAITC's Literacy for Life Teaching Awards:

- Christine Klistoff, Outstanding Educator - "*Garden Bed Lab*"
Fairmont Elementary School, Fresno County
- Cindy Burge - "*Eating Healthy During a Pandemic*"
Granger Junior, San Diego County
- Tammy Burris - "*Distance Learning Bio Labs*"



Grace Davis High School, Stanislaus County

- Julie Cates - *"Climate, Create, Cultivate"*
Linwood Elementary School, Tulare County
- Ron Davis - *"School Garden"*
Foothill Middle School, Contra Costa County
- Stefanie Freele - *"Planting Instructions"*
West Side Elementary School, Sonoma County
- Ed Garcia - *"See Through the Lens of a Microscope"*
Monte Vista School, Ventura County
- Cassie Gocke - *"Succulent of the Month Club"*
Fusion Charter School, Stanislaus County
- Laura Hatheway - *"Healthy Foods Make Healthy Bodies"*
Learning with Laura 123, Sacramento County
- Jane Hills - *"Let's Grow Something!"*
Pacific Union, Fresno County
- Jen Howell - *"Agriculture in the Classroom"*
Edison Elementary School, Alameda County
- Laurie Hunter - *"Agriculture in the Virtual Classroom"*
Cole Elementary School, Fresno County
- Danielle Hyatt - *"AgriScience Projects"*
Ripon High School, San Joaquin County
- Ann Jayne - *"Edible Gardening"*
Banta Elementary School, San Joaquin County
- Diane Johnson - *"Johnson Farm School"*
Blosser Lane Elementary School, Mendocino County
- Classic Lane - *"Agriculture TLC"*
Nehemiah Christian Academy, Sacramento County
- Chris Lavagnino - *"Harvesting Knowledge with Ag-Themed Books"*
Ronald Reagan Elementary School, Madera County
- Holly Pawlicki - *"Gardening 101"*



Warner Elementary School, San Diego County

- Margarita Ramos - *"Gardening-A Virtual Step Away!"*
Ynez Elementary School, Los Angeles County
- Mary Riley - *"Farm Tour Kits"*
Sonora High School, Orange County
- Valerie Stark - *"Farm to Table"*
Clearlake Creativity, Lake County
- Allison Tenzer - *"Desktop Gardening"*
Serrania Charter for Enriched Studies, Los Angeles County