



National Council for Agricultural Education

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To: Agricultural Educators

From: Nancy J. Trivette, President, National Council for Agricultural Education

Re: CASE Update to the Profession

Date: July 1, 2009

This email will bring you up to date on the status of the Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) project.

As I reported in June, following extensive deliberation, we have determined that transferring management of the CASE project to Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is not currently viable. The current contract agreement with PLTW will remain in place. The CASE Governance Committee instead has moved to modify the existing project team to best manage available funds and options for implementation. The following actions were taken:

1. The CASE project team will move forward with one fulltime Project Director and one fulltime Curriculum Director. After careful consideration and review of the proposed CASE budget for 2009 - 2010, Bradley Schloesser, CASE Project Manager, recommended that the Governance Committee retain Dan Jansen as Project Director and Marlene Mensch as Curriculum Director. Brad felt strongly that under the current economic constraints we need our well-trained curriculum writers to remain on staff, and he has chosen to step down as Project Manager. Brad has devoted the better part of the past two years to CASE, and he continues to believe in and support the CASE project. The National Council for Agricultural Education owes Brad a debt of gratitude for his efforts shepherding CASE through the first two years of the project and we appreciate the commitment he has made. His decision to step down was a difficult one and is another example of his selfless support of CASE. With Dan and Marlene, the Governance Committee is confident we have a well-qualified staff to move CASE forward.
2. A new timeline for CASE course development is being developed with input from Dan Jansen, Marlene Mensch and Governance Committee members. The timeline will be finalized in early July.
3. Project charters are being developed for the National FFA Foundation to solicit additional funding for CASE. The project charters should be completed by early July for approval by The Council. They include:
  - One project charter for \$2 million to complete the CASE project.



- One project charter to seek funding in support of teacher professional development through the Summer Training Institutes. Estimated cost per teacher is approximately \$2,500. Plans call for training 60 new teachers each year for the next 5 years.
  - One project charter to seek funding to support adoption of CASE by individual schools or districts. The support needed would include sufficient funds for the purchase of equipment and materials for all CASE courses, teacher training costs, assessment costs and any other identified costs.
4. A request for proposal (RFP) is being developed to invite an entity to partner with The Council to complete development of the CASE curriculum. The Governance Committee places high priority on finding a viable partner.
  5. Additional members will be added to the CASE Governance Committee, each serving a two-year term. They include:
    - Additional representation from 1-2 pilot states
    - Additional representation from 1-2 potential affiliate post-secondary institutions

The Council is committed to the success and completion of the CASE project. **The CASE model is a four-dimensional approach to agricultural education including curriculum development, professional development, assessment and certification.** Through CASE, agricultural education will serve the needs of the industry by producing more graduates to fill the employment demand in the science, business and technology of agriculture. CASE also provides intensive professional development for teachers' success.

I will continue to provide CASE updates; however, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have specific questions or are interested in becoming a pilot state for future phases of the project. More information about CASE is available on the website: [www.case4learning.org](http://www.case4learning.org).