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**Agricultural Education Commission**

***Wednesday, September 23, 2015***

***1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.***

## Meeting Summary

**In Attendance**:

**Commissioners:** Ken Bradford, Kathy Conerly, Tommy Peters, Megan Gravois, Dwayne Martin, Gabe Watts (FFA), Susan Schowen and Dr. Carrie Castille.

**Guests & Staff:** Niki Landry (BESE), Benny Bell (LATA), Lynda Danos, Martha Moore, Lisa French, Jennifer Falls.

**Absent**: Patricia Felder, Dr. J. C. Bunch, Dr. Adell Brown, Dr. Joey Blackburn, Steve Monaghan, Catherine Segura, Dr. Jenee Slocum, Donna Bailey

**Meeting Notes**

**Welcome/Introductions/Meeting Objectives/Roll Call/Approval of Minutes**

*Ken Bradford, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Student Opportunities, LDOE*

Bradford, Commission Chair, introduced commission members, welcomed attendees to meeting, requested that roll be called, and reviewed the agenda. Tommy Peters moved and Dwayne Martin seconded the Approval of the Minutes.

**State FFA Update**

Kathy Conerly, Commission Vice-Chair and State FFA Director, reported on the status of FFA in Louisiana. In June, FFA members attended the state’s convention from which several award winners will advance to national competitions this fall. The current state FFA President, Gabe Watts, and the last year’s state FFA President, Kristen Wall, are among the state award winners advancing to national competitions.

**IBC Subcommittee Report**

Kathy Conerly and Dr. Carrie Castille shared application for Industry-Based Certification and requested assistance with providing required information to the Workforce Commission. Susan Schowen suggested meeting with subcommittee to review application prior to submission to the Workforce Investment Council (WIC). Commission members are to review application and provide suggestions to Kathy or to Carrie by Friday, October 16.

**Agriscience I, II, and III**

Tommy Peters reported on progress reviewing the Agriscience I, II, and III guidelines. Group met this summer to assess alignment with Industry-Based Certification and agriscience standards. Commission members are to review the suggestions and submit feedback to Tommy Peters by Friday, October 16.

***All Things Jump Start* Web Portal Release**

Ken Bradford shared access to *All Things Jump Start* web portal. Site offers one-stop access to information about Jump Start including Jump Start pathways and credentials.

**Introduction of Farm Bureau’s AG in the Classroom Curriculum for K-8**

Meghan Gravois, Commissioner representing Farm Bureau, introduced Lynda Danos, State Coordinator for AG in the Classroom. She shared highlights from the curriculum and connected the curriculum with Agricultural Immersion efforts.

**LDE Updates**

Ken Bradford shared updates from the Louisiana Department of Education, specifically the *2015-2016 High Student Planning Guide* and thanked the commission for their efforts which supported the alignment of the TOPS Tech scholarship requirements with the TOPS Tech Career Diploma as well as embedding of Agriscience courses in multiple Jump Start pathways, earning of NCCER credentials by Agriscience teachers, approval of new career awareness course in Agriscience, and adding of NCCER aligned agriscience courses to the Career Development Fund (CDF) grid.

**Next Steps**

* Summarize and distribute minutes of this meeting
* Poll commission members and set date for next meeting (December)

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Benny Bell, current president of Louisiana Association of Teachers of Agriculture, spoke to the commission and shared concerns of his association’s members.

**Adjourned**

Dr. Carrie Castille moved and Dwayne Martin seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.