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**Agricultural Education Commission**

***Wednesday, October 15, 2014***

***1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.***

## Meeting Summary

**In Attendance**:

**Commissioners:** Ken Bradford, Patricia Felder Dr. J. C. Bunch, Dr. Joey Blackburn, Dr. Willie Rawls (for Dr. Adell Brown), Dr. Carrie Castille, Thomas Peters (for Larry Boyte), Karen Denby (for BOR), Kathy Conerly, Megan Gravois, Jenee Slocum, David Helveston, Dwayne Martin, and Marcus Fontenot (for Steve Monaghan)

**Guests & Staff:** Jeanne Johnston, Martha Moore, Lisa French, Jennifer Falls, Doug Triche, Richland Mathis, Kent Guidry, Bryan Bertucci

**Invited Expert:** Sen. Ben Nevers

**Absent**: none

**Meeting Notes**

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

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

Bradford, Commission Chair, welcomed attendees to meeting and asked for introductions by commission members, invited experts, and guests. Tommy Peters moved and Marcus Fontenot seconded that minutes be accepted as written. Motion approved.

**LDOE Updates**

Bradford provided an update of the following items:

* **Agriculture NCCER Course Codes**

Have verified that course codes are available for use by educators who are agriculture teachers and possess NCCER credentials.

* **Agriculture Career Development Funds (CDF)**

Career Development Funds are available for use with courses that are aligned with both agriculture and the requirements for inclusion with Career Development Funds

* **4H/FFA Course Credit**

BESE policy supports LEA requests for locally-initiated electives for 4H and FFA aligned courses. Network teams have been briefed on the process for creating such electives. Additionally, language regarding FFA in the *High School Student Planning Guide* aligns with national FFA descriptors.

**4-H Presentation by Kenneth Guidry, County Agent, St. James Parish**

Shared how 4H aligns its program’s content and goals to support academic achievement of students in the parish. Presentation generated discussion about how to scale this approach and about how to support inclusion of 4H as integral part of school program, specifically its service learning component aligns with Community Service Diploma Endorsement.

**Sub-committee Reports:**

* **Immersion Programs and Expanding K-20 Agriculture Education Opportunities**

Tommy Peters shared committee report highlighting aligning curricular resources with agriculture content. Panel request more information about immersion models:

* Develop guidelines including a rubric for school-wide program
* Solicit participation as a pilot site
* Build immersion program using Louisiana’s Language program as framework
* Build a career awareness course using agriculture as context
* **Agricultural Standards and Pathways to IBCs (Articulated Credit)**

Dr. Patricia Felder shared overview of status of articulated credit agricultural courses and reported that Board of Regents is reconvening that committee.

* **Incentives and Rewards for Successful Implementation of High-Quality Agricultural Programs by Schools**

David Helveston briefly described the role of the WIC IBC committee in approving IBCs. Dr. Carrie Castille reported on efforts to add an Agricultural IBC to statewide list. Dr. Bunch moved and Kathy Conerly seconded “that the Louisiana Agriculture Education Commission support a proposal to be presented to the Louisiana Workforce Commission’s Workforce Invest Council, to partner with the Florida Farm Bureau Federation in implementing a Louisiana specific program modeled after their Agricultural Certification Program and move forward with the implementation of the Agritechnology and Biotechnology IBC.” Motion approved.

**Next Steps**

* Summarize and distribute minutes of this meeting
* Poll commission members and set date for meeting in December
* Seek supporting information from existing Louisiana immersion programs

**Public Comment:**

None