

AAAE Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee recommends the following nominees for 2022:

President-Elect

Dr. Antoine J. Alston
NC A&T State University



Dr. Antoine Alston, a native of Rocky Mount, NC, is professor and associate dean for academic studies in North Carolina A&T State University's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, is a nationally recognized student mentor, agricultural educator, and expert in the areas of diversity and inclusion. He received his Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Agricultural and Extension Education from NC A&T State University, and Ph.D. in Agricultural and Extension Education from Iowa State University in 2000 at the age of 24. After joining the A&T faculty in 2000, Alston revolutionized the agricultural education program. He moved the master's program online, earning a placement in the top 100 online education programs by U.S. News & World Report. Under his leadership, the university developed a successful online studies program, "2+2," which allows individuals from community colleges to transfer and complete A&T's undergraduate agricultural education program. This program produced the first online 2+2 graduates within the UNC System in 2006. Alston's dedication to student success is well known. His work has earned him many honors such as the UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence, Honorary FFA American Degree, the National Association of Agricultural Educators Outstanding Contribution to Agricultural Education Award, George Washington Carver Distinguished Service Award from Iowa State University, and the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Teacher Fellow Award. Additionally, he was the first African-American to receive a U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Agriculture Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dr. Jonathan Velez
Oregon State University



Jonathan Velez is an associate professor serving as Department Head of Agricultural Education and Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University. After completing his undergraduate Animal Sciences degree and Agricultural Education Master's degree from Oregon State University, Jonathan taught high school Agricultural Science and Technology. In 2008, he graduated with a doctorate in Agricultural and Extension Education from The Ohio State University before returning to his alma mater as an assistant professor. Since joining the faculty in 2008, he served as Director of Agricultural Teacher Education (2008-2010) before accepting the inaugural Bradshaw Endowment in Agricultural Sciences Leadership Education (2010-present). He currently teaches both graduate and undergraduate leadership courses and his research interests include motivation, teaching methods, leadership development, and effective methods of leadership assessment.

Jonathan has been active in leadership, service, and committee roles in AAEE, North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA), International Leadership Association (ILA), and the Association of Leadership Education (ALE). In addition to his professional involvement, he has completed both national and state leadership development programs, most recently graduating in 2020 from LEAD21. He is passionate about developing people and programs and works diligently to explore the systems and contexts that nurture growth in others. Jonathan currently resides in Corvallis with his wife and three children; they stay busy working together on their home and property or playing in Oregon's beautiful outdoors.

Vice President for Communications

Dr. Kelsey Hall

Utah State University



Kelsey Hall is an associate professor of agricultural communication at Utah State University. She teaches agricultural communication and graduate courses in extension education; mentors graduate; serves as adviser to the National Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow and Utah State ACT chapter; supervises student interns, and helps recruit students into the major. She serves as the editor for the ASTE Department's website and the USU Extension Small Farms Resources website. Kelsey's research and Extension work focuses on local food marketing and agricultural communication. Her leadership training includes the AAAE Leadership Academy in 2019-2020. She is currently the vice chair of the Communication and Member Services Committee for AAAE's Western Region. She serves on the Utah governor's Local Food Advisory Council.

Kelsey's work experience was in communications for several agricultural commodity organizations and an association management company. She was a graduate assistant of agricultural communication at Texas Tech University during her doctoral studies and at The Ohio State University during her master's degree. She is a member of the AAAE, NACTA, and ACE.

Dr. Kasee Smith

University of Idaho



Dr. Kasee Smith is an Assistant Professor of in the Department of Agricultural Education, Leadership, and Communications at the University of Idaho where she instructs undergraduate and graduate level courses in agricultural education. Kasee earned her bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education at Utah State University in 2002 and taught high school agriculture for 11 years. Dr. Smith completed her PhD at Texas A&M University and began her time as a teacher educator at the University of Idaho in 2016. Kasee teaches courses in professional ethics, teaching philosophy, oral communications and serves as the departments Graduate Program Coordinator. Dr. Smith is an active member of the American Association for Agricultural Education and has served as the research committee chair on both the regional and national level. She enjoys working to prepare agricultural educators in the Pacific Northwest and has both a small flock of club lambs and equine operation in Northern Idaho.

Assistant Treasurer

Dr. Theresa Murphrey
Texas A&M University



Theresa Murphrey is a Professor in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications at Texas A&M University. Her research focuses on teaching and learning, evaluation, and change in an effort to address educational and learning issues, develop best practices, and maximize individual learning opportunities. She currently serves as the internal evaluator for a National Science Foundation grant with the goal of developing, implementing, and studying a model of STEM doctoral degree completion and the transition to successful postdoctoral fellowships and faculty careers for historically under-represented minorities (URMs) and serves as co-lead on a USDA NIFA grant focused on the creation of instruction to improve students' communication and decision-making skills. She is also leading a USDA NIFA grant focused on developing and sharing gender-sensitive curricula that illuminate the roles that women across the world play in personal, food, health, economic, and environmental security. She is a member of AAEE (American Association for Agricultural Education - Western Region), AIAEE (Assoc. for Intl Agriculture and Extension Education), NACTA (North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture), AEA (American Evaluation Association), and ATD (Association for Talent Development).

Dr. Josh Stewart
Oregon State University



Josh Stewart is an assistant professor of agricultural education and the Director of the Agricultural Education teacher preparation program at Oregon State University. Josh teaches graduate courses in the teacher education program and oversees all aspects of program administration, including teacher candidate placement and supervision. Josh's scholarship efforts are directly related to teacher education and teacher support, and he has served as the major advisor for four doctoral students and 45 thesis and non-thesis masters students. He served as the secretary on the JAE Editing-Managing Board from 2019-2021 and is currently serving on the Oregon FFA Board of Directors and numerous committees in the College of Agricultural Sciences and College of Education at OSU.

Dr. Stewart previously taught high school agriculture for 13 years in Ralls, Texas. He worked as an instructor in Agricultural Education and Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University during graduate school and has served as the director of the Ag Ed program at OSU since 2017. Josh and his wife Amanda live in Philomath, Oregon with their two daughters, Baylee and Adilee.

AAAE Representative to the National FFA Board of Directors

Dr. Becki Lawver
Utah State University



Becki Lawver is a professor of agricultural education and department head of the Applied Sciences, Technology and Education department at Utah State University. She has taught introduction to agricultural education, teaching methods, program planning, assisted with student intern placement and student teacher supervision. Currently, Dr. Lawver teaches in the career and technical education masters and doctoral program teaching the history of career and technical education, leadership and administration, and the professoriate. Becki also conducts research on youth ag safety, and the national supply and demand of agricultural educators, and serves on multiple committees on and off campus. Her leadership training includes the AAAE Leadership Academy in 2019-2020 and the Utah System of Higher Education Women's Leadership Exchange in 2021-2022. She will be serving as the AAAE President from 2022-2023.

Dr. Lawver taught agricultural education at North Bend Central in North Bend, NE, and undergraduate agricultural education courses as a graduate student at the University of Missouri. She is a member of the AAAE, ACTE, and NAAE. She and her husband, Mark, are proud parents of Caleb (wife Kaylyn) and Grace.

Dr. OP McCubbins
Mississippi State University



OP McCubbins is an assistant professor of agricultural education at Mississippi State University. He serves as the coordinator for the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences teacher preparation program where he teaches Field Experience in Agricultural Education, Teaching Methods in Agricultural and Human Sciences, and Directing Learning Experiences (graduate). He coordinates student intern placement and supervision during the spring semester, serves as an advisor for agricultural education students and helps recruit new students into the major. OP also conducts research on the use and impact of immersive technology for teaching and learning in and about agriculture. He serves on multiple committees on and off campus.

Dr. McCubbins taught agricultural education at Lone Oak High School (Paducah, KY) and Campbell County High School (Alexandria, KY) prior to earning his Ph.D. at Iowa State University. He is a member of the AAAE, NAAE (MAVAT), ACTE, and NACTA. OP and his wife, Courtney, spend all their money on their two yellow labs, Sable and Salem. Dr. McCubbins loves Halloween, Bob Ross, wild shirts, and crazy socks. He is the reigning undisputed "Freak in the Sneaks" crazy sock contest champion (with a belt to prove it).

Dr. Aaron McKim
Michigan State University



Aaron McKim is an Assistant Professor of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) Education at Michigan State University. In this position, Aaron teaches courses in AFNR teacher education and leadership, conducts research on the construction of interdisciplinary learning spaces, and supports programmatic success via departmental, college, and university service commitments.

Aaron has served on the AAAE professional development committee, research committee, JAE editing managing board, co-chair of the S1071 multistate project, and chair of the host committee for the 2019 NC-AAAE meeting. In addition, Aaron participated in the 2016 OMEGA program and is participating in the 2022-2023 AAAE Leadership Academy. At the state level, Aaron has served on the Michigan FFA Board of Directors for six years, received the Michigan FFA honorary degree in 2022, and volunteers extensively for the Michigan FFA.

Prior to his role at Michigan State, Aaron was a graduate teaching assistant at Oregon State University where he worked in both leadership education and teacher education. Aaron taught high school AFNR for two years at Switzerland County High School in Vevay, IN. Throughout his professional life, Aaron's commitment to supporting and improving the FFA Organization has expanded and he hopes to extend this commitment as the FFA Board Representative.

