

Education Committee Minutes
Yorkville, IL
June 6, 2023
4:00 pm

Members Present: Luke Allen, Deanna Bazan, Alyse Olson, Julie Brown, Ariel Beauchamp

Meeting Start: 3:53pm

1. Review of Programs and Activities

- a. Lesson- Ariel and her Volunteer Presenters presented in April and May on Beef to 877 students. Surveys were given and results were distributed in meeting.
- b. Natural Resource Tour- May 4th and May 11th were both sun filled days with 415 students in total that participated at Silver Springs State Park. Students enjoyed the learning day outdoors. Common comments were they wanted to visit all the stations, but because of time constraints, early and late arrivals due to school bus schedules and large number of students and classrooms it was not possible to have every class participate in every station as in the past.
- c. Agriculture Career Contest- We had 2 entries this year. Emily Graver from Traughber Junior High School, won 1st place writing on an Ecologist career and winning the \$100 prize. Riley Bell from Thompson Junior High won 2nd place writing her essay on an Aquaculture Hatchery Manager career winning the \$50 prize. Mr. Krygowski, a Traughber Jr. High English Teacher, was the teacher that won \$25 for referring his students to participate in the essay contest. Picture was taken of Emily and press release with contest results was submitted to newspaper.
- d. Career Extravaganza- Ariel attended the Plano YMCA Career Extravaganza event to speak to 500 students on her career as an Education Coordinator in 2 minutes to each rotating groups of students from various high schools in the local area.
- e. Volunteer Presenters- KCAITC had Rita Feltes and current intern Keely Wixted go into classrooms to present lessons. Rita volunteered 6 hours in classrooms for April and May and reached 308 students with the Beef lesson. Keely spent 3 hours in classrooms and reached 140 students in May.
- f. IAITC Coordinator Meeting- Ariel attended on May 23rd in Bloomington, learned about soil with the NRCS State Soil Scientist and about farmers markets with the Illinois Farmers Market Association Executive Director. Received STEM cards to give to teachers. Also learned about new soil lessons and resources.
- g. Re-evaluating program approach- Our slots to be in schools were full now that schools are allowing outside presenters back in. There is a need for more presenters for next school year to give at least 2 hours a month or the equivalent of being in 4 classrooms at one school. KCAITC has been fortunate to enter into 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 7th grade classrooms this past year. Ariel wants to expand more and continue these relationships, however time in schedule doesn't allow much room. Should programs go longer with fewer offerings? Go from 4 lessons/year to 3/year? Our poster contest in the fall only had one grade participate last year and only about 2 schools total in the previous 2 years, changes were asked of the group. Luke Allen suggested the contest be restaurant

placards such as Livingston County AITC does in collaboration with local restaurants. Luke Allen suggested it is better to grow programs that grow into the different grade levels of schools than focus on reaching every school in one grade level. Luke suggested record when turning away schools, grade level, and teacher to advocate for more capacity.

2. Summer Programs and Activities

- a. Agriculture Career Field Trip Series-June 20th,21st,22nd,27th, 28th, and 29th. SARE grant funded for high school students in Kendall County. Five students are registered. Going to run with low enrollment. First year doing this for research and will work towards doing another year. Ariel needed suggestions for a couple of the days that had extra time. Deanna suggested having students create questions ahead of time for speakers. Give candy as prizes to those who share. Luke suggested having a career scavenger hunt and for the last day with extra time have students work together in a group to create a 1 minute TiKTok style video to make a promo video of the series. It was suggested to have students take short videos and pictures throughout the series to make the video at the end which wraps up the series and ties all the days together.
- b. SAI- July 10th-13th in Kendall, Will, Grundy, and LaSalle counties. Still enrolling teachers. Registration is due June 30th.
- c. IAITC Grant- Currently 50% done with IAITC grant will finalize and send before July 19th due date.
- d. Volunteer Engagement Program: Recruit more Volunteer Presenters to training on August 17th.
- e. Farm Bureau Picnic- on June 20th
- f. Create 2023-2024 AITC Curriculum- Ariel has picked out AITC lesson for year and shared with committee to review, make edits, and suggestions.
- g. Recruit Substitute- Ariel will be on maternity leave from mid-October through December. Ariel is recruiting a substitute to work 3 days/week from 8-4:30pm. Looking to hire in August to train in September then work in October, November, and December. Ariel's current plan is to come back after the winter holidays.
- h. Golf Outing- August 11th at Whitetail Golf Course, Funding supports Kendall County AITC and other local agriculture education.

3. Future Meeting Dates:

- a. October 3rd
- b. January 9th
- c. April 2nd
- d. June 11th

Meeting Adjourn at 5:03 pm

Minutes submitted by Ariel Beauchamp