

January 8, 2018

Ms. Giancesello,

Hello, my name is Amber Rice and I am a faculty member in agriculture teacher education at the University of Arizona. I am writing to inform you of an exciting opportunity for the agriculture teachers in the Chandler district. I am pleased to announce that the University of Arizona is offering a summer Curriculum for Agriscience Education (CASE) Institute in Introduction to Agriculture Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) during the summer of 2018. This 10-day institute (June 11th-21st) will allow attending teachers to become certified CASE instructors in the AFNR curriculum. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you more about CASE and open the door for further communication.

There are currently 10 CASE courses, with AFNR serving as the introductory course. All CASE courses are aligned with national standards including NGSS, common core math, common core English language arts, and the national AFNR agriculture standards. CASE curriculum is comprehensive and detailed including teacher notes, PowerPoints, student activity instructions, and assessments. All CASE institutes are led by current teachers in the field who use CASE in their own classrooms. The purpose of the professional development institute is to learn the pedagogy and philosophy behind CASE, go through the entire course curriculum in-depth, and complete hands-on labs. CASE is NOT viewed as a replacement for current agriculture programs, but instead a way to enhance instruction and provide increased science integration into agriculture content. CASE curriculum is periodically revised and made available to all certified instructors. Once you have become CASE certified you are certified for your entire career; however, you MUST become CASE certified to teach the CASE curriculum.

The University of Arizona faculty and staff support the CASE initiative and offered our first integrated course to preservice agriculture teachers fall 2017. All 11 preservice teachers enrolled in the course became provisionally certified in CASE AFNR. The Agricultural Education Department classroom 108 was transformed into a CASE teaching laboratory complete with wet lab, lab tables, and all equipment and supplies needed to host a CASE institute. Feedback from students and faculty alike was overwhelmingly positive following the conclusion of the course. Interest from current practicing agriculture teachers following an AATA list serve questionnaire was the catalyst for hosting a summer institute. It is our hope that the close proximity of the institute will help mitigate travel cost for attending agriculture teachers.

Registration for CASE is first come first serve and opened on December 1st 2017. The cost to attend the institute is a flat \$2800 fee which includes all lodging, meals, certification, and lead teacher salary. Our CASE institute is a currently a closed site so that Arizona teachers will have first choice in signing up for our institute. We will open the institute to teachers nationwide beginning in March 2018. If you have additional questions about CASE, please do not hesitate to contact me. My cell is (502) 294-6137 and my email is amrice@email.arizona.edu. Thank you for your time and commitment to Arizona teachers.

Sincerely,



Amber Rice, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Agricultural Education

