



# College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

## Department of Agricultural and Extension Education Profile

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### Mission Statement

The primary focus of the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education (AXED) is to develop the skills and content knowledge of each student in an effort to make them well-rounded individuals who are prepared for the experiences they will encounter in the “real world” following graduation from the College of ACES. This includes strengthening their leadership skills through applied experiences and classroom training.

AXED degree programs equip students to influence the future. Our undergraduate and graduate emphasis areas in agriculture education, technology education, agricultural communications, Extension, government and industry agricultural careers, and international agricultural development. While different in coursework and experiences, all revolve around a common goal. Our graduates **“Change Attitudes, Change Lives, and will ultimately Change the World.”**

### ACES Pillars for Economic and Community Development



### Selected Program Impacts

- Alumni Making a Difference in Agricultural Education.** Alumni are making a difference in both formal and non-formal education. The department has prepared and placed 20 new agriculture teachers in the last five years, and 63% of all agriculture teachers in New Mexico are AXED alumni. They impact students daily in the areas of leadership, career development, and agricultural awareness and literacy. Our department also has an impact on the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service (CES)—51% of current CES faculty are AXED alumni. Our alumni work with their communities to bring life-changing information to families and agriculturists based on university research.
- Agricultural and Extension Education Learning Laboratory: Establishing Partnerships to Create Real-World Learning for Students.** Dr. Tre Easterly has developed a unique partnership with an agriculture teacher at Centennial High School in Las Cruces. This partnership established Centennial High School as the Agricultural and Extension Education Learning Laboratory in 2017. Students in Dr. Easterly's teaching methods course have the opportunity to teach in a high school, giving them real-world experience and an environment in which to apply what they have learned during the semester.
- Improving Student Understanding of Science.** Dr. Peter Skelton and Dr. Tom Dormody have found that students at Memorial Middle School (MMS) in Las Vegas, NM, scored higher than students at a comparison middle school on the New Mexico standardized science test because of their participation in experiential and inquiry-based learning activities at the NMSU Extension and Research Youth Agricultural Science Center located on the MMS campus. Educational impacts through the center have resulted in expansion to a K-12 model in partnership with the Las Vegas City Schools. Earlier research findings are leading to final adjustments to a new middle school climate science curriculum that will improve youths' science comprehension and understanding of weather and climate science, and will interest them in careers related to agriculture, natural resources, and environmental sciences.



## Selected Program Impacts (cont.)

- **NMSU Partnering with Colombia to Help Local Farmers.** Dr. Brenda Seevers, who focuses on international development and Extension education, completed a USAID Farmer-to-Farmer assignment in Colombia. Dr. Seevers was the first of 10 volunteers to travel to Colombia as part of the Colombia Agricultural Network Development Project. The goal of this project is to gain an understanding of how the current Colombian agricultural system works, and create a plan to better connect change agents with sources of technical, business, and agricultural information. Dr. Seevers laid the groundwork for improved communication and partnerships between researchers, students, and producers.
- **Wind Power Technology Center.** Water is an important resource that is in short supply in the U.S. Southwest. Even in today's high-tech world, windmills continue to provide water to farm and ranch operations throughout the country. In Windmill Technology Workshops taught at the Wind Power Technology Center on NMSU's main campus, over 850 participants have learned the fundamentals of using wind and solar applications to pump water where it is needed. NMSU's workshop is the only windmill workshop taught by a university in the United States, and has attracted participants from every part of our country as well as Afghanistan, Brazil, Chile, Nigeria, and Mexico. A single class will often include ranchers, professional millers, Tribal range managers, windmill enthusiasts, and traditional college students.
- **The primary focus of Dr. Dawn VanLeeuwen's work conducted through the Agricultural Biometric Service is to promote the use of appropriate statistical techniques on ACES college projects.** Her work contributes to using research dollars efficiently: Consultation from a statistician may result in designs that are much more likely to yield information that can be used to answer questions of importance.

## Faculty and Expertise

- **Tom Dormody**, Regents Professor, leadership, agricultural education, communication
- **Tre Easterly**, Assistant Professor, agricultural teacher education
- **Frank Hodnett**, Professor, Extension education, agricultural teacher education
- **Carlos Rosencrans**, Associate Professor, agricultural mechanics and technology education
- **Brenda Seevers**, Distinguished Achievement Professor, Extension education, international development
- **Dawn VanLeeuwen**, Professor, applied statistics

7/2018