



Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. Education Specialist

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: Florida Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. (FAITC) is a non-profit organization working to develop and distribute agricultural curricula and materials as well as train classroom teachers in how to use these tools to educate Florida's youth about agriculture. FAITC receives its funding from the sale of the Florida Agricultural Specialty license plate and is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of agricultural industry leaders. Its mission is to increase agricultural literacy through PreK-12 education in Florida.

POSITION LOCATION: This is a full-time position located in Gainesville, FL.

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

The primary purpose for the Education Specialist at FAITC is to enhance the ability of classroom teachers to increase student knowledge about agriculture, food and the environment while meeting statewide mandatory academic standards in science, social studies, English/language arts, math and health/nutrition.

The Education Specialist is responsible for taking high level comprehensive agriculture content and issues, synthesizing and articulating these to a wide range of groups and individuals while making them relevant to learning in key subject areas. This licensed education professional will develop and disseminate curriculum and supplemental educational materials to a PreK-12 teacher audience, provide teacher pre-service and in-service training opportunities to a PreK-12 audience and work with schools to enhance agricultural literacy by incorporating agricultural content and concepts into classroom instruction.

The Education Specialist will work closely with the FAITC Executive Director and the FAITC Board of Directors to advance the areas of teacher and educational materials development. This person will be administratively responsible to the FAITC Executive Director with input from the Executive Committee for his or her annual performance evaluation as well as approval of leave, expenses and office staff coordination.

The Education Specialist will work closely with various agriculture and education groups in Florida including the FAITC Board of Directors, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Department of Education and other organizations who have an education component to deliver to the public. The ability to initiate and maintain a working relationship with these organizations is essential.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

This position requires a proven self-starter and the ability to multi-task. The individual must possess strong verbal and written communication and public speaking skills, strong organizational skills and the ability to problem solve. This individual will have some freedom within which to act and the flexibility to implement broad education-based objectives. The position requires a self-directed and highly motivated individual.

The Education Specialist should have an understanding of the educational system and specifically Florida's academic standards. A solid experience in the education system, techniques and delivery is essential.

This individual should have an understanding of agricultural concepts and its contextual learning interface with PreK-12 education, either through coming from an agriculture background, demonstrated educational preparation or previous position experience.

The ability to design, deliver and evaluate educational products and programs is a must.

In-state travel will be required to fulfill the duties of the position.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIORITIES:

1) Teacher Professional Development

- Provide in-service and pre-service professional development throughout the state to current PreK-12 educators, education students and volunteers. Develop workshops that teach content background and tools/strategies necessary for teachers to comfortably integrate agriculture content into their core curriculum.
- Collaborate with FAITC Executive Director, FAITC Board of Directors and cooperate with Florida's agriculture community for content and technical support.

2) Educational Resource Development

- In collaboration with FAITC Executive Director develop, promote and present PreK-12 teacher resources as part of the Florida Agriculture in the Classroom portfolio of educational materials and programs.
- Add two to four new instructional products to FAITC educational resources per year.
- Manage educational resources on FAITC website, updating when needed.

3) Marketing and Outreach

- Collaborate with FAITC Executive Director, the FAITC Board of Directors and the Florida Department of Education to establish visibility or a 'footprint' for FAITC within the Florida education community.
- Manage social media.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree in a major K-12 education area or in agricultural education.
- Knowledge of agriculture content and concepts, either through formal training, past work experience or an agriculture background.
- Evidence of curriculum development including the ability to design, deliver and evaluate quality curricula or instructional materials for K-12.
- Teaching experience in a public or private school.
- Utilization of technology in the classroom including experience with computers and the internet, database and list serve maintenance and presentation software.
- Evidence of public speaking and/or presentation skills.
- Ability to work with a volunteer program network and diverse audiences
- Must be able to work in a normal office environment and be comfortable as a member of a working team of professionals
- Available for reasonable travel, including some overnight stays to accomplish core responsibilities.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- At least three years of teaching experience in a public or private school with a current teaching certificate in agriculture or related field.
- Knowledge of current trends in education, including new technology uses, and in articulating the Florida academic standards.
- Experience with development and writing of K-12 instructional materials and with online courses related to agriculture in Florida.
- ESL/Spanish language skills and/or training.

SALARY: \$38,000 - \$44,000 plus benefits depending on skill set and experience.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Please submit the following:

1. A personal letter describing applicant's qualifications for the position
2. Resume
3. Sample of curriculum developed
4. Letters of recommendation from three references, preferably employers or professors including their contact information
6. **Send the above information by August 23, 2019 to:**

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