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Teacher Feature - Robin Dick

Grades Taught:
High School 9th - 12th

Westminster High School
Westminster, CA



How and when did you first learn of Ag in the Classroom?

I first learned about Ag in the Classroom while I was taking college courses at Cal Poly Pomona. I heard wonderful things about how they advocate for agriculture.

DID YOU KNOW?!

It takes 5 - 7 years for a pear tree to produce fruit!



California Foundation for
Agriculture in the Classroom

How long have you taught students and why did you choose to become an educator?

This year I completed my first year as a high school agriculture teacher. I decided I wanted to become an agriculture teacher after my freshman year of high school. I took a ton of agriculture classes and they all got me hooked.

What is your favorite AITC program/resource/event and why?

I really enjoy all of the grant options that Ag in the Classroom provides. This year our program was lucky enough to be given a grant to restart our poultry units. This included housing for laying hens and the hens themselves. These resources provide hands-on experience for the students while allowing them to work at something they truly enjoy.

Has agriculture continued to impact the way you educate students?

I teach all agriculture classes, and it really plays a huge part in my classes. I teach all of my students how important the industry is and it is fun to show them how much the industry impacts us all.

Tell us about one person who has most influenced your own education and educational care.

Mrs. Miser, Miss Richmond to me at the time, was one of my favorite teachers. I always was looking forward to her class and participating in the FFA activities that she coached. I have only wanted to be an agriculture teacher since then. She showed me how important being a teacher is and how much of an impact you can have on the lives of your students.

Tell us about a golden teaching moment.

One of my golden teaching moments was with a student who was considered "a bad kid" by many of his other teachers. He didn't really do his work, he didn't get along with other students, and he was always in the office for being in trouble. At the beginning of the year I convinced him to participate in one of our public speaking competitions. The day before the competition

he was in trouble and had been suspended for the day. Because of that I had to tell him that he couldn't compete. The next day at school he was so upset that he vowed he wouldn't miss the next one. From that day on he turned his life around and ended the year with a 3.0 GPA, the highest he has ever had. I asked him why he cared so much, and he said, "Because I'm not going to let you down again."

Do you have any advice for other teachers on implementing agriculture into the classroom?

The biggest piece of advice I could give someone is to do your research, and don't be afraid to ask questions. There are so many misconceptions about the agriculture industry and the best thing you can do to advocate for it is to make sure you are doing so with the truth.

Why do you believe it is important for our students to be agriculturally literate and aware in today's society?

I feel that it is vital that people are literate in the agriculture industry. One of my favorite sayings was by Brenda Schoepp. She said, "My grandfather used to say that once in your life you need a doctor, a lawyer, a policeman and a preacher, but every day, three times a day, you need a farmer." This depicts the necessity of the industry, and people need to realize that no matter what happens, it is the industry of life.

1. 2015 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference

Save the Date! Oct. 22-24, 2015, The Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA

Join us for the 20th California Ag in the Classroom Conference as we go Full STEAM Ahead in exploring agriculture's journey from farm to you. Come aboard The Queen Mary October 22- 24 to learn from speakers, participate in workshops, experience field trips and learn how you can incorporate agriculture in your classroom. [Registration](#): \$280. Please call (800)700-2482 or email info@learnaboutag.org with questions.

Call for Proposals

We are seeking enthusiastic presenters who would like to share their expertise, experience, and educational resources with conference attendees. [Proposals](#) are being accepted to present a workshop or Make 'n' Take, exhibit at the conference, or host "A Taste of California" dinner table!

2. Scholarship Opportunities for 2015 AITC Conference

CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

AITC is pleased to offer a limited number of scholarships for California teachers to attend the 2015 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, October 22-24. The scholarships will cover a minimum full registration fee of \$280. Depending on sponsorships received, some scholarships may cover hotel and travel.

CHARLES SPINETTA FAMILY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Charles Spinetta Family is pleased to offer scholarship opportunities for teachers in Amador County to attend the 2015 California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, October 22-24.

Apply for a [scholarship](#) now!

3. Ag Tour and Seminar 2015 Presented by the E.A.T Foundation - Session 2

July 13-16, 2015 - Hanford, CA

This three-day workshop includes tours of local farms, dairies, packing houses, and participation in local farming and gardening techniques. Participants will hear from guest speakers who will discuss the importance of education, nutrition, and agriculture. The registration fee is \$50. Upon completion of the program, attendees will receive a \$100 stipend. Two CE units are available to interested educators. Visit www.eatfdn.org to apply.

4. The Growing Classroom: 2-Day

Intensive on Garden-Based Learning (Grades 2-6)

August 1-2, 2015 - Santa Cruz, CA

Learn to use a garden to breathe life into standards-based lessons, promote ecological literacy, encourage healthy eating, and support students' social development. Using Life Lab's *The Growing Classroom* activity guide for grades 2-6, participants in this hands-on workshop experience tried-and-true garden-based lessons linked to Common Core Language Arts and Math and Next Generation Science Standards, practice basic gardening techniques, and develop management strategies for a school garden program. Graduate education units available. Visit www.lifelab.org/tgc for more details and an agenda for this workshop.



Fact and Activity Sheets

Ag in the Classroom's Fact and Activity Sheets provide specific lesson ideas and fun facts for a variety of topics. AITC offers 33 [Agricultural](#) Fact Sheets on different commodities and natural resources, six on [California Invasive Species](#) and a set on [California Specialty Crops](#) (a subset of the 33 Agricultural Fact Sheets). These Fact and Activity Sheets can be used in every grade and are loved by every teacher and student.



County - Local Events

July 11 - Come meet the authors of the 2014 *Imagine This...* Story Writing Contest at the 2015 California Exposition and State Fair for a book signing. Please call (800)700-2482 or email info@learnaboutag.org with questions.



SUPPORT
AITC

Show Your Support for Agricultural Literacy

Help us continue to provide programs and materials to create an awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's educators and students.

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