

# DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications (ALEC) includes a student-centered faculty and staff offering undergraduate degrees leading to professional careers. Using a blend of asynchronous and synchronous courses, our programs offer a unique combination of practical, hands-on experiences and critical people skills required for success in today's fast-paced careers. Upon graduation, our students are uniquely equipped for leadership, education, communications, and training roles in the broad field of agricultural sciences and human performance in both domestic and international settings.

We offer three Bachelor of Science degrees: Agricultural Communications and Journalism, Agricultural Leadership and Development, and Agricultural Science; and five minors: Agricultural Communications and Journalism, Extension Education, International Agricultural Development, Leadership, and Youth Development.

## Degree Programs

**Agricultural Communications and Journalism (AGCJ)**  
(<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/communications-journalism-bs/>)

This program prepares the student to work in news, magazine, broadcast, public relations, advertising, multimedia, digital cable, or satellite communications. Students in this program will complete courses in writing, editing, and basic digital design. Professional skills courses include publications production, public relations, photography, broadcasting, and electronic communications.

**Agricultural Leadership and Development (ALED)**  
(<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/leadership-development-bs/>)

This program prepares the student to work with people involved in agriculture and life sciences and other related fields. Students in this program will complete courses in personal and organizational leadership, ethics, and leading change. Specialized courses include courses such as team leadership, leading volunteers, cultural pluralism, and agricultural extension related courses.

**Agricultural Science (AGSC)** (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/agricultural-science-teaching-bs/>)

This program prepares the student for a degree and as well as teacher certification in Secondary Agricultural Science. Students in this program will study educational technologies, instructional design and program planning in agricultural science. The program is aimed at creating high

quality high school agricultural science teachers. However, other careers can often benefit from this training in agriculture and education.

For more information about each of our programs, visit the specific majors tab (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/#majorstext>) or visit our department website. (<https://alec.tamu.edu/academics/undergraduate/>)

## Degree Minors

We offer five minors, in specific areas, that provide our students with foundational knowledge and concepts required for success in future careers such as communication specialists, Extension educators, developers of youth programs, and students seeking positions as leaders in domestic or international settings.

- Agricultural Communications and Journalism (AGCJ)
- Extension Education (EXED)
- International Agricultural Development (IDAG)
- Leadership (LDAG)
- Youth Development (YDEV)

For more information on each minor, select the link below or visit our department website (<https://alec.tamu.edu/academics/undergraduate/>).

## Faculty

Baker, Mathew, Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Ohio State University, 1990

Boyd, Barry L, Associate Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1991

Briers, Gary E, Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Iowa State University, 1978

Dooley, Kim E, Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1995

Dunn, Allison L, Instructional Assistant Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2018

Elbert, Chanda D, Associate Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, The Pennsylvania State University, 2000

Elliot, John F, Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Ohio State University, 1988

Ellis, Gary, Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, North Texas State University, 1983

Ettekal, Andrea, Associate Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Arizona State University, 2014

Felton Odom, Summer R, Associate Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2011

Hancock, Jay P, Visiting Lecturer  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
MS, Texas A&M University, 1984

Harlin, Julie F, Associate Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Oklahoma State University, 1999

Herbert, Bruce, Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, University of California at Riverside, 1992

Hewitt, Mallory, Visiting Lecturer  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
MS, Texas A&M University, 2023

Keszei, David, Professor of Practice  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Pepperdine University, 2021

Leggette, Holli, Associate Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2013

Locke, Darlene, Assistant Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
EDD, Texas A&M University, 2004

Lockett, Landry L, Senior Lecturer  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
EDD, Texas A&M University, 2007

Lund, Randy, Instructional Assistant Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2022

McGrath, Paul A, Visiting Lecturer  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
MA, Marist College, 2012

Moore, Lori L, Associate Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, University of Florida, 2003

Murphrey, Theresa P, Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1997

Murphy, Timothy H, Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 1995

Nelson, Chad, Instructional Associate Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2019

Opat, Kelsi, Instructional Assistant Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Texas Tech University, 2020  
LLM, Friends University, 2015

Preston, Tammie M, Instructional Assistant Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2014

Quijada Landaverde, Rafael, Assistant Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, The Ohio State University, 2022

Redwine, Tobin D, Instructional Assistant Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2014

Saunders, Clint, Professor of Practice  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
MS, Texas Tech University, 2002

Strong Jr, Robert L, Associate Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, University of Florida, 2010

Strong, Jennifer R, Associate Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Oklahoma State University, 2007

Wald, Dara, Associate Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, The University of Florida, 2012

Wang, Jun, Assistant Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Colorado State University, 2013

Wingenbach, Gary J, Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Iowa State University, 1995

Xu, Zhihong, Associate Professor  
Ag Leadership, Educ & Comm  
PHD, Texas A&M University, 2020

## Majors

- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Communications and Journalism (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/communications-journalism-bs/>)
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Leadership and Development (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/leadership-development-bs/>)
- Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Science, Teaching Option (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/agricultural-science-teaching-bs/>)

## Minors

- Agricultural Communications and Journalism Minor (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/journalism-minor/>)
- Extension Education Minor (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/extension-education-minor/>)

- International Agricultural Development Minor (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/international-agricultural-development-minor/>)
- Leadership Minor (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/leadership-minor/>)
- Youth Development Minor (<http://catalog.tamu.edu/undergraduate/agriculture-life-sciences/agricultural-leadership-education-communications/youth-development-minor/>)