**Delta Conference Summary**

Delta is more than a five-day event. It’s the beginning of a process. It’s the catalyst that will help teachers insure that *every student learns, every day*. It’s the catalyst that will begin the process of helping agricultural teachers articulate to all people; administrators, fellow teachers, parents, community leaders and businesses, why their classroom is successful and why their program plays a vital role in the community. It’s the catalyst that will embark teachers on the journey of becoming, not just a teacher of leadership, but a *role model and student of leadership.* Simply put, the goal of this conference is change.

For CTE teachers attending the Delta Conference, here is what they can expect.

1. Methodology and Engagement Sessions - Training will be conducted in multiple intelligences, modalities, language, and e-moments, to name a few. Participants will then integrate this information into lesson plans and then teach the lesson plans to their peers. Each participant will be coached in the moment and provided feedback in “real-time.” The intentional infusion of Career Ready Skills into lesson plans will be expanded upon, and the teacher will gain a mastery level in the implementation of these lesson plans.
2. Leadership and Personal Development Sessions – Teachers at the Delta Conference will have the chance to participate in keynote discussions with national leaders in education and business. Different philosophies on leadership in education and business, as well as, generational leadership, will be shared. In turn, each participant will take part in real life leadership scenarios and challenges, applicable to the classroom, the school, and the community. Participants will receive specific feedback in these leadership scenarios and be provided with strategies to use.
3. Connections and Influence Sessions – Participants will walk away from the Delta Conference competent and capable to articulate to peers and partners how they engage students in the classroom, how they teach leadership to all students, and how their program is a vital component to the school and community. Participants will develop advocacy skills and a systematic approach to promoting agricultural careers and the agriculture industry within the classroom and community. Each participant will create his or her own personal and professional influence plan before they depart the training.

The professional educator will be honored. This training is designed for those who are called to teach. Trainers, facilitators and mentors leading the Delta Conference will be the best in the profession. Most importantly, teachers will be treated as professionals, both in and out of the training sessions. Participants will be selected through an application process based on their desire to learn, previous involvement in educational activities, and recommendation from peers and administrators. We hope to have 45 participants in this inaugural conference, and hope to sustain the conference in years to come.

All participants will be challenged to risk boldly, not only at the conference, but also upon their return to home.

The Delta Conference started with conversations between Agricultural Education leaders centered around a concern over the growing trend for young teachers to leave the profession before they had fully developed their potential and full professional ability. Delta is seen as a method to provide support and increase the professionalism for this endangered group of teachers. By providing a support base and cadre among their peers, and provide training to increase their professional abilities, we feel that we can impact the trend of young teachers leaving the education profession in a positive manner.

Delta will also impact mid-career teachers by invigorating their teaching spirit and drive and provide a strong mentor base for younger teachers. This mid-career group can offer many experiences and expertise to the younger teachers in the group while finishing their careers in a strong and positive fashion.