

**Agriculture Education Teacher Preparation & State Teach Ag Results (STAR) Report  
Patricia Jepson  
August 21, 2018**

<b>Agriculture Education Students at UConn</b>	
Bostrom, Brian	Enrolled TCPCG 2018-2019 Student teaching at Southington High School
Masi, Gino	Enrolled TCPCG 2018-2019 Student teaching at E.O. Smith High School
Stanavage, Molly	Enrolled TCPCG 2018-2019 Student teaching at Middletown High School
Woodworth, Rebekah	Enrolled TCPCG 2018-2019 Student teaching at Suffield High School
Ammirato, Sarah	Enrolled CAHNR & IB/M (2018-2021)
Powers, Dean	Enrolled CAHNR & IB/M (2018-2021)
TCPCG: Teacher Certification Program for College Graduates (11 months) IB/M: Integrated Bachelors/Masters (3 years: Junior, Senior, Graduate) At least ten (10) additional UConn students currently identified as potential AgEd	

<b>Connecticut STAR Team</b>	
Pamela Berlekovec, Trumbull teacher & CAAE officer	Ellen Thompson, NAAE
Kathryn (KC) Dal Zin, Lyman Hall teacher	Kevin Keith, National FFA
Casey Dunn, Wamogo teacher & CAAE officer	Harold Mackin, State Department of Ed
Mia Haaland, Northwestern teacher	Martin Baker, FFA Alumni
Rebecca Isaacson, Middletown teacher	Katie Golembeski, State Consulting Committee
Jennifer (Shields) Jedd, Nonnewaug teacher & CAAE officer	Jody Cameron, FFA Foundation
Audra Leach, Coventry Middle School teacher	Patricia Natusch, FFA Foundation
Emily Picard, Lyman Hall teacher	Jennifer Cushman, UConn faculty
Amanda Thomson, Middletown teacher	Patrick Hourihan, UConn student teacher supervisor
Justin Ferreira, UConn student	Patricia Jepson, UConn faculty
Jonathan Tumolo, UConn student	

STAR Team Meetings

April 18, 2018 Initial in-person Team meeting with Ellen Thompson NAAE

May 9, 2018 Finalization phone conference, CT STAR Team and Ellen Thompson

July 2, 2018 Phone Conference, CT STAR Team and Ellen Thompson

CT STAR Highlights

Patricia Jepson was selected as Ag Ed Specialist with the following primary responsibilities:

- Serve as a liaison between UConn Ag Ed teacher prep program and local/national Ag Ed and TeachAg community
- Promote and support Ag Ed career pathway to CT's high school, undergraduate and graduate students, and potential career-change adults
- Explore funding and logistical opportunities to create a permanently funded Ag Ed position at UConn

### Additional STAR Goals

- Create “pathways” document to show steps for teacher preparation
- Improve communication (email, website, exhibits, handouts)
- Increase support programs for early career teachers
- Develop strategies to increase diversity and inclusion

### STAR and AgEd Activities

- PJepson participated in (National) TeachAg Advisory Board phone meetings on January 31, May 1, and August 28
- PJepson participated in TeachAg Recruitment sub-committee phone meetings on April 2 and June 29
- PJepson participated in CASE (Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education) Advisory Committee phone meeting on June 18
- PJepson represented TeachAg in CT FFA Convention College and Career Fair on June 27, 2018; Meagan Ridder and Joseph Bonelli from UConn also participated
- PJepson and Peter Sepe met with Cameron Faustman to discuss potential long-range funding for AgEd teacher preparation on June 19; CAAE officers and other individuals have been contacted for further input and planning
- PJepson is updating records of UConn graduates who are teachers or working in related positions
- PJepson, Emily Picard, KC DalZin, and Rachel Holden met to develop potential AgEd pathways designs; proposals have been sent to NAAE for input from a professional graphic artist
- KC DalZin, Emily Picard, Justin Ferreira, Jon Tumolo, Rachel Holden, and Jennifer Jedd prepared a list of ideas as a starting point for early career mentoring possibilities (see attached list)
- PJepson is exploring additional grant opportunities
- Jen Cushman taught the summer TCPCG AgEd methods class; classes met at Ag centers and included input from current teachers, Kevin Keith, Harold Mackin, and PJepson
- CAAE and NAAE membership dues have been paid for all TCPCG and IB/M AgEd students and student members of STAR Team
- We plan to establish a STAR section on the CAAE website
- PJepson will serve on the Teacher Educator Advisory Group for the NAAE/National FFA Diversity and Inclusion Task Force