

Creating a New History for Agriculture and Food Science Technology

GROUP: AGRICULTURE EDUCATION & TRAINING

Objective: Create a vision and identify goals for the future of agriculture and food science technology for Southern Minnesota. Engage the participants, put forth ideas.

We Listened!	We're Learning!	Together, we are growing!
Current State	Strategies for Improvement	Future State
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure of students to Ag in general 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing of Riverland Students– have the students be aware of Riverland and its Ag programs. Early Marketing – freshman or younger. Market to all age groups. Work with teachers at elementary & secondary to all career paths besides 4 year. Money in savings using RCC, transfer & PSEO Advertise Education on opportunities & pathways Utilize CEO's, managers in the classroom from Hormel, John Deere and others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2+2 agreements with many 4 year colleges beyond MN. Affordability of coming to Riverland. Career Pathway Conference (ex. Scrubs, Camp, RCTC) Immerse in offerings in RCC Ag.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness of Opportunity with Ag Sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise to local business what we have for our Ag programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to address language & poverty barriers How to reach a diverse minority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market to diverse cultures, and make sure to include 1st generation diverse parents. How do we market to a more diverse culture? Market to all age groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cycle for Success, Be Your Best, Step Up Achieve, Spark, ESL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand Tie more tightly with Ag Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shortage of secondary Ag instructors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credentials & teachers promoting Riverland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSEO, Secondary, with 4 year colleges beyond MN Partner with other institutions to share Ag Faculty Joint Education More in college readiness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of access to technology – all levels – HS, Colleges, Universities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to more current technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with businesses & industry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping up with the changing technology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for Ag programs Legislative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry Partnerships Raise funds for dedicated scholarships Awareness of scholarships that are available from local businesses. Need money for Marketing Need money for Technology Need money for Teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships with FFA offer scholarships to attend RCC Partnerships with Hormel Foundation & other foundations – industry Identify major partners Develop, Internships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overcoming the concept that Ag is only on the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

farm.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ability to afford going to secondary & post-secondary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4-year college first mentality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change that mentality Market to core educators & parents, HS counselors (important value of 2+2) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exporting of our Ag Students to IA, SD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try to retain the students for 2 years and then send to 4 year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer from Riverland to a 4 year degree college.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future in Ag Careers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convincing Students of Career Trajectory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future of your career potential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with business & industry and producers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test Plots/Seed Plots Ag Days on the actual Farm Hands-on experience with latest tech Simulation facility labs – from the industrial side (food science, microbiology, product proto-type, Food Safety/Regulatory) Partner with the local businesses to get into labs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PATH Pro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student and faculty exchange with China Expand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting your HS with Post-Secondary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More in college readiness (PSEO, joint education)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Few industry partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leg work/marketing to develop partners not just for financial support but to develop partners that will accept students as part of a mentorship or internship program where students may experience field work Mentorship likely as a no-pay experience. Internship as a paid summer employment where a student is exposed to a variety of experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students in Ag program have access to work experience as being part of the Riverland Ag Program.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to get a Director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director on Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Big Data” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make work for Ag 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS

- Would have like to hear from “all” of the FFA students that were on the panel.
- Would have liked the FFA students to talk for their own experience, but would have liked to hear what it would take to get them to Riverland.
- Breakout was hard to hear with 2 groups in same room.
- Tie summer internships to college credits?
 - Strengthen ties with industry (many internships offered, not tied to Ag programs)
- Future of Ag is not just technology. Students will need the basics of Agronomy – soils, weed science (resistant to herbicides, modes of action), Varieties (seed selection), nutrient recommendations.
- Also Ag still needs people to operate equipment (forklifts, loaders, sprayers, VRT applications, trucks, operations of facilities)