



**AGRICULTURE
TEACHERS**
ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Michelle Vasbinder Selected as New ATAT Professional Development Coordinator

Austin, Texas – The Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas announced that Michelle Vasbinder has been selected to fill the new position of Professional Development Coordinator. Starting November 28, 2022, Vasbinder will develop educational content and professional development opportunities for ATAT members.

Ray Pieniasek, Executive Director of ATAT, said, “I am excited to welcome Michelle to our team at ATAT. She has been an outstanding classroom teacher and will be a great resource to help develop our teachers. One of her main goals will be to increase the amount of professional development for our teachers and continue developing our outstanding new teacher mentor program.”

Vasbinder has been an agricultural science teacher at Rudder High School since 2014 and has served as the Rudder High School CTE Department Chair since 2019. Her time as Rudder High School’s Teacher Mentor Coordinator will bring valuable experience in managing a mentor program. Vasbinder has served in leadership roles within ATAT, becoming a board member in 2021 and presenting workshops at our Professional Development Conference for the past five years. She has also been a member of the Texas FFA Board of Directors since 2018. She holds a Masters of Science in Agricultural Science from Texas A&M University.

“As a teacher’s daughter, I knew as a young child I wanted to become a teacher. After my personal experience in Ag and FFA, I decided to become an ag teacher to make the greatest impact on my students. I believe this profession is the best job and the most impactful for our students. I firmly believe the foundation of every great ag program starts in our classrooms, and I hope to bring my passion for the ag ed program and acquired skill set to serve our ag teachers across the state,” Vasbinder said.

The new role of ATAT Professional Development Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the Association’s professional development activities, including working on current programs and developing new opportunities. Vasbinder will oversee Professional Development Conference Workshops, the ATAT Professional Mentor Program, and Teacher Talks. She is tasked with creating year-round professional development activities, new teacher professional development, and teacher wellness activities.

“I am so excited to join team Texas Ag Ed and to have the opportunity to serve ATAT, Texas ag teachers, and ag ed students across Texas. I hope I can impact our profession by recruiting and retaining Texas ag teachers through the programs and work done through ATAT,” Vasbinder stated.

The Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas is a professional organization for agricultural education teachers and supporters. The Association informs members about the latest agricultural education practices, encourages higher standards of teaching, and provides a unified voice for agriculture education in the state legislature. Celebrating more than 80 years, the ATAT is headquartered in Austin, and its mission is to prepare educators to develop 21st Century leaders in agriculture through excellence in education, citizenship, and cooperation.