



## Outstanding Post Secondary/ Adult Program

# Nathan Purrington

## University of Minnesota– Crookston

*“The mission of the University of Minnesota Crookston Ag Ed Program is to develop beginning teachers as engaged learners who know how to create motivating environments, work with diverse students, adapt curriculum and practices, model ethical practices and make reflective decisions that support and extend the learning of students in any setting.”*

### Overview

- The current agriculture program began in 2015 with students across Minnesota and other additional states– having 28 students complete the program for teaching
- Nathan Purrington teaches all of the Agricultural education courses, numerous education courses and several of the Agricultural Systems Management (ASM) Courses
- Nathan Purrington also advises all of the Ag Ed Students, both the collegiate FFA Chapter and the Ag Industries Club

### Experiential Learning

- Every student is required to complete a minimum of 100 field experience hours through Secondary Ag program visits, FFA events, job shadowing and field trips
- Students are involved in SAE activities, State degree and proficiency interviews and scoring and assisting in State FFA CDE participation and competitions
- Students participate in a 16 week student teaching experience their senior year

### Program Curriculum

- UMC is designed to combine general studies, preparation for effective teaching and a broad background in various discipline in agriculture
- The Ag Ed courses include Career Exploration, Early Experience, Classroom Management, SAE, FFA and Leadership, Methods of Teaching AG Ed, Foundations of Work based learning, Methods of Teaching WBL, Ag Ed Professional Seminar and student teaching components.
- Students attend the MAAE Ag Tech Conference and Participate in the FAST program

### Professional Growth

- Been a member of MAAE, NAAE, MnACTE, and ACTE
- Serves on the Minnesota FFA Foundation Board of Trustees and a members of the MN State Teach Ag Results (STAR) committee
- Serve on the MAAE CDE Committee as an Ex officio member
- Participate in numerous workshops throughout the year

### Leadership Development

- The FFA LifeKnowledge curriculum is taught in one of the Ag Ed Courses to develop competencies in leadership
- All agricultural students are members of the Collegiate FFA Chapter
- Students set up and run the Ag and Natural Resources Activities Day (ANRAD) and assist in many Region I FFA Contests throughout the Year

### Partnerships

- Minnesota Farm Bureau collaborates to organize and host the collegiate discussion meet at Crookston
- Students have articulation agreements with four institutions of higher education to ease the transition into agricultural education
- A large collaborative effort in the Change Lives, Teach Ag Conference
- Additional partnerships include: numerous business and industry professionals, advisory committee members and local FFA chapters

*“You have guided us, challenged us, encouraged us, and helped us become the people we are today. We are forever grateful to you for investing your time and efforts in developing the next generation of agricultural educators.”*

*- Crookston Ag Ed Students*

# 2023 MAAE Award Winner

Banners donated by the Minnesota Farmers Union

