



Agricultural Career Readiness Skills Certificate
Pathway for the 21st Century
(ACRS21) Talking Points

1. ACRS21 is funded through a 4-year USDA/HSI \$Million Grant – Collaborating partners: Texas A&M, Kingsville, Agricultural Experience Tracker (AET), Fresno State Career Development Center, and the Center for Land Based Learning.
2. Goal – To establish a transferable certificate pathway to develop agricultural students’ soft skills and career readiness development from high school, to community college, and/or university levels.
3. Certificate requirements are based on experiential learning activities aligned with Soft Skills and Career Technical Education (CTE) Career Readiness Practices Standards.
4. High school certificate requirements are met through participation in FFA activities and recorded in AET.
5. Student activities are automatically tracked and reported in AET similar to the State FFA Degree through the Application Manager.
6. There is no cost associated with participation in the ACRS21 Certificate Pathway.
7. AET will house teacher training videos and resources for the ACRS21 Certificate Pathway.
8. ACRS21 Certificate Pathway is supported by a long list of agricultural employers and educational leaders:

Individual	Position	Organization
Juan M. Alvarez	Regional Director	USDA, Office of Partnership & Public Engagement
James Oftedal	Pacific Southwest Region 5 Program Manager	U.S. Forest Service
Russ Friend	County Executive Director	USDA Farm Service Agency
Dr. Sharon Nance	Assistant State Conservationist – Field Operations, Area 3	National Soil Conservation Service
Dr. Dennis Nef	Dean of Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology	California State University, Fresno
Charles Parker	Program Manager, Agricultural Education & Family and Consumer Sciences Office	California Department of Education
Matt Patton	Executive Director	California Agriculture Teachers Association



Dr. Roger Hanagriff	Associate Professor, Agricultural Education and Business	Texas A&M, Kingsville
Imelda Dudley	JCAST Internship Coordinator	California State University, Fresno
Judy Culbertson	Executive Director	California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom
Ian LeMay	President	California Fresh Fruit Association
Nancy Gutierrez	Statewide Director	Agriculture, Water Environmental Technology California Community Colleges
Carrie Peterson	Regional Director-Employer Engagement	North Far North Region Agriculture, Water Environmental Technology California Community Colleges
Holly Nolan Chavez	Regional Director	Allan Hancock College Agriculture, Water Environmental Technology California Community Colleges
Krista Vannest	Regional Director	Modesto Junior College Agriculture, Water Environmental Technology California Community Colleges
Ryan Jacobsen	CEO	Fresno County Farm Bureau
Tricia Stever Blatler	Executive Director	Tulare County Farm Bureau
Joy Soares	Director, College and Career	Tulare County Office of Education
Mary Kimball	Executive Director	Center for Land-Based Learning
Kadie Guist	Central Valley FARMS Leadership Program Coordinator	Center for Land-Based Learning
Dr. Susan Pheasant	Director	Fresno State Institute for Food and Agriculture
Shay Williams-Hopper	San Joaquin Regional Supervisor	Agricultural Education, California Department of Education
Dr. Taryn Krazan (Kohl)	ACRS21 Program Evaluator	Lecturer, Fresno State University
Dr. Steven Rocca	Professor	California State University, Fresno
Dr. Avery Culbertson	Assistant Professor	California State University, Fresno