Congratulations agronomists, we were successful! We created an efficient crop production atmosphere, and we are now a victim of our own success and efficiency. Our Green Revolution literally revolutionized society and caused a rise of a service economy. This corresponded to a decline in the production economy (and a corresponding decline of rural America). This switch changed the human psychological makeup all over the world, creating a society that is far removed from the realities of production and the rise of individualism. We pretty much inhabit a dream world. This dream world happens to have consequences: the very heart of the conduit of students into our discipline often parallels the health of rural America. Society has changed, and our views on how we approach K-12 outreach need to change. The K-12 Outreach and Activities Community of ASA is leading the charge into the future.

Agronomy is one of the quintessential interdisciplinary fields! Soils, crops, and agronomy prove a dynamic field full of thousands of different career opportunities. Most of them have humanitarian implications, and therein lies our best sales point for the current groups of students. Our Community is composed of professionals from all over the world, who want to inspire the next generation of scientists. This can be done through traditional teaching of STEM concepts in K-12 school curriculum or through the integration of scientific ideas into culture and social studies via museums and other nontraditional venues. Ideas can also be spread in one-day seminars and career workshops through existing youth organizations and extension agents. Both the formal and informal possibilities for outreach are endless. We provide a network to discuss our ideas and advocate for our causes.

This year, at the Annual Meeting, we are hoping to have a frank discussion about the issue with the agronomy recruitment pipeline and strategies to solve this using different methodologies in K-12 education. We are also co-sponsoring a session on “Resources in Education and Outreach for Soils and Agronomy.” Come share what you have!

K-12 education is often measured with tests. The “test,” if you will, will prove you are an informed, engaged, and productive member of our world. Are you swayed by political rhetoric? Can you see beyond the Twitter feed and beyond the echo chamber that life gives you? K-12 outreach programs in agronomy have the potential to teach our youth and their teachers to put their lives and their communities into a broader context. EVERYTHING rides on it!

We need the K-12 Outreach and Activities Community more than ever. Have curriculum, ideas, topics of discussions, or programs you would like to share? Contact our Community leaders. If you are interested in the K-12 Outreach and Activities Community, please visit www.agronomy.org/account/communities.

M. Liesch, Presiding Leader of the ASA K-12 Outreach and Activities Community


2017 Election Results

The 2017 ASA, CSSA, and SSSA elections were completed in March, with the following individuals selected as the Presidents-elect for 2018:

ASA President-elect:
Gary Pierzynski, Kansas State University

CSSA President-elect:
Beth Guertal, Auburn University

SSSA President-elect:
William Pan, Washington State University

The proposed CSSA bylaw changes were approved by the membership, which adds a Graduate Student Representative as voting member of the CSSA board.

Full election results and the updated ASA and CSSA bylaws can be viewed online at:
www.agronomy.org/about-society
www.crops.org/about-society
www.soils.org/about-society

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