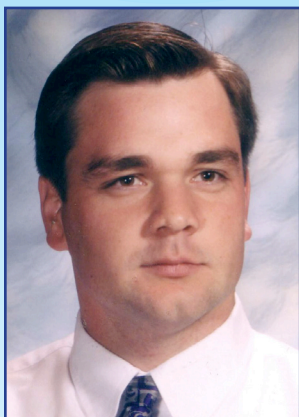


2006 HONOREE

Jacob Larison

Riverton High School, Riverton, KS
Applied Fields Education • 9th-12th Grade Agricultural Education



Years Teaching: 10

Average Class Size: 15

Classes Taught Per Day: 6

School's % of ESL Students: 1%

School Type: Public, Rural

Type of Class: Self-contained

“Reading and writing are cornerstones of education, but as testing and NCLB have shown, all teachers must be involved, regardless of curricular area. My students are involved in reading textbooks, technical manuals, journals, news articles, web-based sources, chemical labels, catalogs, and countless charts and diagrams. Through each of these reading activities, students are enhancing the skills that they need for not only career success, but success on state assessments as well. Through it all, they are searching for information to solve the problems presented in the curriculum. My creativity comes through in the variety of ways I present these activities. Writing comes to life in my classroom as students prepare speeches, essays, skits, flyers, news articles, and team presentations. Students practice their skills in narrative, expository, and technical writing. My students work to improve their skills in writing, reading, math, science, and social science in my classroom and lab, all while striving to meet our approved state competencies for Agricultural Education. By constantly reinforcing these concepts in agricultural applications, students learn in a new way and continue to develop their learning in the core academic areas. The students have fun with what they learn, which keeps them coming back for more.”

“Most would assume that an Agricultural Education student comes from a family farm or has grown up immersed in agriculture. In reality, the exact opposite is true. The students I see every day come from varied backgrounds. Only three percent of my students come from a family farm, and very few have any type of background in agriculture. To add to the variety of the students that I see, we have a great disparity in the socio-economic status of our students. I have some students whose parents are struggling to make ends meet, while others are living very comfortable lives. This diverse background leads them each to a wealth of experiences that they can share with their classmates.”

“Mr. Larison is hands down the best teacher I have ever met. If every teacher would learn something from him, then I believe all my classes would be interesting. Through his teaching, I now have a chance to go to a four-year university on a scholarship. I have met past students of Mr. Larison's who have won grants for projects they work on and scholarships for career goals they hope to achieve. He has shown many of his former students to the career that they are currently in. He is also showing the next generation of adults a way to have fun with life that no teacher I have met could ever do.”

— current student

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Young Vocational Teacher of the Year - Kansas Association for Career and Technical Education (2003) • Outstanding Program, Region II-National Association of Agriculture Educators (2001) • New Vocational Teacher of the Year-Kansas Association for Career and Technical Education (1999) • American FFA Degree-National FFA Organization (1996) • National Association of Agricultural Educators Landscape Grant (2005) • Kansas Association of Agricultural Educators Southeast District Vice-president (2003-05) • Kansas FFA Triple Crown Award (1999, 2000)