

OUTSTANDING TEACHER MENTOR



PAMELA KOENEN
ALDEN-CONGER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OVERVIEW

Mentoring, as with everything that we do in agricultural education, is learned by example. What Pam has learned about being a mentor to others is what was modeled to her by those that she has had the good fortune to have been mentored by. The desire to give back to her profession has always been there for her. She wanted to be the resource for new female ag teachers that she did not have in her early career. The desire to help the next generation of agricultural educators is also based on the reason that she is an agricultural educator— that desire to help mold and influence the next generation. Making a big impact in hosting student teachers is a professional responsibility and honor.

The same attitude of professional responsibility and honor is what guides Pam as she interacts with other agricultural educators within the region, state and nation. Pam's philosophy of mentoring includes safety, support, growth and adaptability. Creating a safe environment to provide honest and constructive feedback, support throughout the teachers teaching career, and to help and allow growth professionally. Pam gains just as much from mentoring as she gives. Being a mentor to her has only enhanced and improved Pam as a teacher and as a professional.

It was a great experience, as a mentor, she made sure that I knew exactly what I was going correctly and the areas that I needed to make improvements on. Her mentorship to me didn't stop after my student teaching period. Making sure that I didn't give up on becoming a teacher, she kept me moving to my end goal of becoming a teacher.

~Matthew Frenchick, Foley Ag Teacher

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