

## **February is Career & Technical Education Month**

While I grew up on a farm and around agriculture, I never imagined I would pursue a career in this industry. I had no idea that the first time I set foot in my agricultural education class, my life would change forever.

My involvement with CTE classes began on a very basic level. I slowly started gaining hands-on experience in new facets of the agriculture industry that I hadn't been exposed to before on my family's cattle operation. I was fortunate enough to have a teacher who saw potential in me and continuously pushed me outside of my comfort zone.

My love first developed for animal science classes, but I quickly realized I had a passion for public speaking and communications. Thanks to my CTE classes, I became involved in FFA. Through competing in prepared public speaking, agriculture communications Career Development Events and eventually serving as an Arkansas FFA state officer – my eyes were opened to new career possibilities.

The spark that was ignited through my CTE classes eventually led me to receive my Bachelor of Science in agricultural business public relations from Arkansas Tech University. The networking connections I made from CTE classes in high school continued into college as I applied for internships and eventually my career.

Today, I'm proud to serve as the communications specialist for Farm Credit of Western Arkansas. I credit the majority of my communication skills and passion for my work to the foundation I gained through CTE classes. I'm proud of how Arkansas Career and Technical Education helped shape me into the person I am today and ultimately led me to my dream job in a field I love. - ***Lindsey Triplett***

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