



## **Invitation to Apply for Agriculture (General Agriculture) Teacher at University Charter School:**

We are now accepting applicants for Agriculture Teacher.

**Reports to:** Principal

**Application Deadline:** Until position is filled

**Start Date:** August 1, 2024

### **Answering the Call**

Feeling trapped in the box of the traditional educational model? Ready to rethink rural, K-12 education? Wouldn't it be cool if you could teach in an innovative rural school that cultivates students' creativity and makes learning relevant through real-world experiences? A school in which the content standards are the floor and not the ceiling? A school in which relationships are valued more than compliance? Well, here's your chance!

We are searching for individuals who are comfortable working in an exciting environment, who are risk-takers and are driven to imagine and explore the limitless possibilities for our students, and who are committed to providing an engaging, yet rigorous, project-based/place-based approach to teaching and learning. Successful candidates will be highly collaborative, yet independent thinkers, and will be comfortable "co-working" with their professional peers. Do you want to teach your students on a deeper level and facilitate opportunities for them to develop their passions beyond the core content? You'll be able to do just that at University Charter School. UCS is a diverse, student-centered school that is seeking educators who are prepared to lead and are passionate about UCS's ambitious plans to reimagine rural education. If you're tired of the box of tradition, apply to teach at University Charter School, where the box does not exist.

### **University Charter School**

University Charter School (UCS) is an innovative PK-12 public charter school that opened in August 2018 in rural Livingston, Alabama. For the 2024-2025 school year, UCS will have ~750 students in grades PK – 12. UCS is designed to be a

rural, diverse school that cultivates independent thought, promotes the building of character and civic responsibility, and is committed to preparing all students for personal and professional success through the discovery of individual learning pathways in a rigorous and integrated Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STREAM) focused, project-based and place-based curriculum. The vision of University Charter School is to become a rural model for producing adaptable learners that have a strong sense of place, mission, and rural identity, and who recognize the value of collaboration within a school, across a community, and between diverse rural regions. Our graduates will be prepared to continually meet the demands of an ever changing economy and will be perceived as community leaders and catalysts for meaningful change. We see UCS as a purposeful, place- based, and collaborative pathway to encourage growth and retention in and to restore relevance to our rural community.

UCS is strategically and intentionally located on the campus of the University of West Alabama and was created in partnership with the University of West Alabama. UCS faculty and students will leverage the assets of the University through hands-on partnerships and academic projects with participating colleges and divisions that span health care, education, and the arts, to name a few.

UCS's approach to education is unique in a number of ways:

- **Location:** The school's location on the University of West Alabama campus in rural Sumter County, Alabama, will provide students with the opportunity to build rich and ongoing relationships with each other and benefit from the programs and opportunities available on campus and in our community. Sumter County, our rural community, has been challenged by a lack of high quality educational opportunities, a decline in overall child well-being, high poverty rates, high unemployment rates, low per capita income, and depopulation. UCS was created out of a partnership between the University of West Alabama and a rural, impoverished community in an effort meet the educational needs of the children. By nurturing the diversity of a divided community, UCS presents a solution to the unique educational challenges that face rural communities by providing a blueprint for others to follow, as well as presents opportunities to demonstrate and implement PK-12 best practices in a rural setting.
- **Curriculum:** UCS's curriculum is project-based and place-based, which will provide students with real-world local connections to what they are learning in school. Students will also have the autonomy to direct their course of study, allowing them to pursue academic work and projects that inspire them.
- **Diverse by Design** - Last but not least, UCS will ensure that a diverse group of students can take advantage of all of the opportunities this school will offer.

## **Roles and responsibilities**

### **Classroom Instruction**

- Serve the educational needs of UCS students K-12 by providing the latest knowledge and skills associated with the vision of the UCS agriculture education program, curriculum, competencies, goals, and outcomes in alignment with local, regional, and state needs.
- Prepare engaging lessons that demonstrate an awareness of best practices for engaging, instructing, and assessing students
- Utilize appropriate educational technologies and research to deepen and extend classroom learning
- Conduct relevant field trips for first-hand agriculture experience

### **Future Farmers of America (FFA)**

- Serve as the advisor for the FFA chapter and provide opportunities for students to participate and be active
- Assist students in coordinating FFA activities in the local, state, and national levels
- Prepare and train FFA and agriculture contest teams and entries
- Assist students in preparing applications for proficiency awards, state and national recognitions, etc.
- Create opportunities and experiences for elementary students to learn about future FFA opportunities and become involved with the program (where appropriate)

### **Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAEs)**

- Supervise students' SAEs through school-based, worksite, and/or home visits
- Provide feedback and direction of the student's SAE
- Visit students' SAE projects once per semester
- Assist students in keeping SAE records

### **Other**

- Remain professional at all times with students on campus and off campus as a representative of UCS
- Attend necessary professional development as assigned and identified
- Coordinate and collaborate with ag-related industry, higher education and community organizations to pursue and implement projects related to agriculture education
- Serve as point of contact and lead implementation of school garden efforts including coordination with the Child Nutrition Program Director to build a sustainable farm-to-school program
- Prepare and track the budget for the agriculture education program as advised
- Purchase supplies and equipment for the classroom and learning experiences
- Other relevant duties and responsibilities as assigned

## **Qualifications**

The strongest candidates will have the following certifications, skills, and experiences:

- An undeniable enthusiasm for and commitment to authentically engaging youth
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Exceptional organizational and planning skills
- AL Educator Licensure/Endorsements or equivalent Out-of-State Licensure/Endorsements (If hired, out-of-state candidates must obtain necessary AL licensure (preferred, not required))
- Willingness to obtain CTE certification or endorsement for Agriculture
- Evidence of excellence in teaching in a student-centered and rigorous environment
- Experience in a project-based learning environment is strongly preferred, but not required
- Willingness to learn, explore, experiment, question, create, critique, and enhance as we RETHINK RURAL EDUCATION.

## **Salary and benefits**

UCS offers a competitive salary dependent upon degree and experience and comprehensive benefits package including health insurance and retirement.

## **Apply**

If your experiences and passion make you a great fit for the role, please complete an application. UCS uses an online application system designed to be an easy and efficient way for you to apply. All available positions are listed in [TeachAL](#). Applicants interested in vacancies with UCS must complete an online application. If selected for a position, additional information is required including a background check/fingerprint review, proof of citizenship, and valid identification.

## **Online Application Instructions**

### **First Time Users**

**Step 1:** Go to Applicant Login

([https://ats1.atenterprise.powerschool.com/ats/app\\_login?COMPANY\\_ID=00008500](https://ats1.atenterprise.powerschool.com/ats/app_login?COMPANY_ID=00008500))

**Step 2:** Click on Create an Account

**Step 3:** Select a Username and Password. You will use this login information any time you want to apply.

**Step 4:** Build an application by clicking on the Create Application link. This application can be saved and used to apply to more than one job opening.

**Step 5:** If you are ready to apply, complete the application with information and materials for the specific job opening. Make sure you have attached your resume, cover letter and any other pertinent documents in the add attachment section before you apply to a specific job.

## **Apply Now**

**Step 1:** Scroll through the job postings and click on the Job Title to which you want to apply.

**Step 2:** Click on Apply

**Step 3:** Login in using your username and password.

**Step 4:** Complete your application with information and materials for the specific job opening. Make sure you have attached your resume, cover letter and any other relevant documents in the add attachment section.

### *Important Notes*

- Make sure your application is complete and all required materials are attached. Once an application is submitted to a job, it cannot be edited.
- When applying to multiple job postings, your main application will carry forward the information and the attachments of prior applications. Remember to delete the previous cover letter/information you attached and replace them with the new appropriate documents.
- It is important that your application show all the relevant education and experience you possess. Applications may be rejected if incomplete

*Online applications are stored on a secure site*

*Only authorized employees and hiring authorities have access to the information submitted.*

*UCS does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religious preference, marital status, disability, national origin, or any other reason prohibited by state or federal law. Employees of the District are required to comply with the provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments. Alabama school boards are required by state law to verify the employment eligibility of newly hired employees by using the federal E-Verify program. New employees are required to provide a Social Security number, an unexpired identity document that contains a photograph, and other acceptable documents that establish employment eligibility. In addition to determining whether a new hire is authorized to work in the United States, E-Verify will confirm that the employee's name and Social Security number match. All applicants must pass a background check through the Alabama State Department of Education to be eligible for employment.*