

Dr. Jason Headrick, Assistant Professor
NARRU Distinguished Young Educator Award
Davis College Junior Faculty Award

Dr. Jason Headrick joined the Ag Educations and Communications Faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Fall of 2020. He has become a recognized faculty member for his work across teaching, research, grantsmanship, service, and outreach and engagement across Texas Tech and the South Plains.

Dr. Headrick's expertise is in leadership studies and as Assistant Professor for Leadership and Community Development at Texas Tech, he teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in the agricultural leadership concentration. His approach to teaching takes students on a developmental journey and uses engaging classroom activities, assignments, and service-learning projects. He easily goes far beyond the academic expectations of the classroom and includes a human element recognized by his students. His assignments, course design, and teaching empowers the students to take ownership of the learned content and apply it in the workplace and across the agricultural and natural resources disciplines. From *The Leadership Combine* podcast to his research focused on the use of team contracts in the classrooms, Dr. Headrick excels in his teaching activities. He was recently selected for a USDA Kika De La Garza Hispanic-serving Institution Education Fellowship in 2024.

His research pursuits encompass leadership pedagogy, civic leadership, rural community leadership, and access and inclusion across the agriculture and natural resources sector. He has been active in research with undergraduate and graduate students and has had many projects recognized across academic conferences. He and his research team received both the Distinguished and Outstanding Poster Award at the 2023 Association of Leadership Educators Conference. In addition, his work on the prevalence of workforce development skills in agricultural job postings earned him a Most Impactful Research Award at American Association of Agricultural Educators- Western Region Conference. He has been fortunate to present this information at the USDA Agricultural Marketing Services National Meeting and at the International Leadership Association annual conference. At the W-AAAE Conference, one of his undergraduate researchers received a Top Ten poster designation. He has put together a strong team of collaborative graduate and undergraduate researchers with projects focused across his research areas. In addition, Dr. Headrick was a co-editor and author of a leadership and interpersonal skills Open Education Resource (OER) textbook, which has been downloaded and accessed over 10,000 times within the past year and saved students over \$55,000 in textbook costs across 12 universities that have adopted the textbook for course use.

In terms of grants, Dr. Headrick has been successful with funding for the Civic Leadership Academy through the Helen Jones Foundation. He also received one of the inaugural Davis College Catalyst grants for a rural community project entitled "We Love West Texas," which is a rural community survey and empowerment-focused grant. He received his first USDA-NIFA grant as a PI with a Women and Minorities in STEM award. This grant sets up a Science, Engagement, & Leadership Academy for South Plains College students and provides them the opportunity to be mentored through undergraduate research projects by Davis College faculty. He has also submitted other USDA grants this year and is planning to submit the West Texas rural communities project for additional funding as well.

Dr. Headrick's approach outreach and engagement has become central to his work. His groups and teams course uses a service-learning designation to establish partnerships with a variety of clients where the students take on the role of leadership and creativity consultants. He has partnered with the Texas Department of Agriculture, Hub City Outreach, and the Lubbock Volunteer Center through this course. The students learn how to engage with nonprofit and government entities and how to conduct an analysis of their needs through interviews, surveys, and assessments on a challenge presented by the partnering

organization. These partnerships have led to engaging undergraduate students in agricultural and leadership education pedagogical research and allowed Dr. Headrick to conduct research related to the use of teams in the classroom. In 2022, Dr. Headrick launched the Civic Leadership Academy (CLA), a program housed in the Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources at Texas Tech University, made possible by a grant received from the Helen Jones Foundation. The CLA addresses the need for promoting civic leadership in Lubbock and the surrounding region through a multi-disciplinary service-learning approach that allows participants to engage in self-discovery through leadership development, values assessment, and community development opportunities. This co-curricular activity empowers students to address community needs through assessment, stewardship, sustainability, and empowerment of the participants through engaging their training and opportunities into capstone projects that has distributed over \$25,000 across the South Plains to address challenges such as low socio-economic transportation with an e-Bike program with Open Door, community improvement through partnership with Lubbock Parks and Recreation, community fridge projects with East Lubbock Art House, establishing a food pantry at O.L. Slaton Middle School, Main Street program developments in the City of Plainview, and providing additional service opportunities for Texas Tech students. In 2024, he received the TTU Office of Outreach and Engagement's President's Emerging Engaged Scholarship award for this work with civic leadership.

Dr. Headrick easily represents the ideals of great new faculty within the Davis College at Texas Tech University.