

**Dr. Jason Headrick, Assistant Professor**  
**Davis College Outreach & Engagement 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. It is my pleasure to nominate Dr. Headrick for the Davis College Outreach & Engagement Award.

Dr. Headrick's approach outreach and engagement has become central to his work. In his teaching, 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. The notion of being a civic leader is embedded into the program and offers students the opportunities to foster their own leadership development and to impact others through using their knowledge and skills to address the challenges and needs of others. The program prepares them to consider the ethical implications of service and community development and prepares them to contribute to the ideas of diversity and being ready to enter the workforce across the world. Their training in sustainable development helps them to understand and invest in the work they are committing to. As the University is committed to enhancing economic development across Texas and the rest of the world, one of the lessons the CLA members are learning is the ripple impact that investing in the community can have. 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.

In addition, his work with rural West Texas communities through his Davis College Catalyst grant has been a great way to engage communities but also make more TTU students engaged in the process. The Catalyst grant team held the first Davis College Catalyst Summit and invited current students from across the 41-county area for a one-day event where they met local leaders in education, commerce, and mental health resources. They were able to diagnose challenges they see in their hometowns and develop potential solutions using the resources they have. This was an empowering event for the students and many of them are still engaged in the work.

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