FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AgriCorps Announces Launch

Non-profit organization will bring agricultural education to developing countries

Throckmorton, Texas (September 23, 2013) - Stemming from a passion for agriculture and leadership, a Texas rancher has created a worldwide non-profit organization. Trent McKnight, former national FFA president in 2000, announced last week the beginning of AgriCorps, an organization focused on reducing hunger and poverty in developing countries through agricultural education.

“Through my travels across Africa and other parts of the world, I quickly recognized a need for practical, real-world agricultural education,” said McKnight, a graduate of Oklahoma State University and The London School of Economics. “The knowledge that American students of agriculture posses is invaluable to these still largely agrarian societies as they seek to learn better, more efficient agricultural practices.”

The organization operates by sending American college graduates into primary and secondary schools in developing countries. There, the volunteers teach agriculture for a year, training students on best practices for production agriculture in the region and expanding students’ leadership capabilities. Based on a different model than similar non-profits, the volunteers must have practical farm skills and have completed an undergraduate degree in agriculture from an accredited United States university.

Dwight Armstrong, CEO of The National FFA Organization, will serve as a founding director of the AgriCorps board. “AgriCorps is bringing together the best of agricultural education, FFA and 4-H to meet the needs in developing countries across the globe for the next generation of agriculturalists,” Armstrong said.

Joining Armstrong on the board is Don Floyd, President and CEO of the National 4-H Council. “Seventy percent of people living in extreme poverty are rural and agrarian. This is a challenge,” said Floyd. “In 4-H we know that the youth solution is the best way to resolve these challenges. AgriCorps will take talented young leaders to the places where the challenges are the greatest, and the solutions will come quickly.”

The organization has begun to accept names for interested volunteers. To learn more visit www.agricorps.org or contact McKnight at trent.mcknight@agricorps.org

###