

Current Duties

Ag Mechanics and Ag Education Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Degrees and Certifications Earned

- Bachelor of Science in University Studies Agricultural Leadership: from Texas A&M University, May 2012
- Master of Science in Agriculture: From Sam Houston State University, December, 2015
- Agriculture Sciences 6 -12 (TExES passed October 2013)
- Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities, EC - 12 (TExES passed December 9, 2013)
- Certificate in Leadership Education, Theory and Practice (TAMU issued May 11, 2021)
- Ph. D in Agricultural Leadership Education and Communications, August, 2025

Work or Professional Experiences

Texas A&M Kingsville, Kingsville, TX,

Agricultural Mechanics and Education, Assistant Professor, July 2023 - Present

- Taught Agricultural Mechanics courses
- Taught Agricultural, Food, and Natural Resources Teacher preparation courses
- Coordinated the AFNR student teacher programs with other Ag. Ed. Professors
- Organized and Hosted AFNR and FFA Ag Mechanics Contests.
 - (ATMS Coordinator) (AAE Co-Coordinator) 2024, 2025, 2026
- TAMUK Ag Mechanics Project Show Co-Coordinator- 2024, 2025, 2026
- Coordinated FFA LDE invitational and District contests.

College Courses as an Assistant Professor

- Undergraduate courses
 - AGSC 4361 Methods and Materials of Instruction
 - AGSC 3363 Program Planning
 - AGSC 4353 Agricultural Building Requirement
 - AGSC 3352 Farm Power
- Graduate level courses
 - AGSC 5361 Ag. Science Program Building
 - AGSC 5363 Adult and Young Farmer Education
 - AGSC 5390 Volunteerism in Agriculture
 - AGSC 5367 Organization and Administration of Vocational Education

Graduate Research/ Projects

- Colton Allen, MS, Thesis, In progress
- Andres Garza, MS, Project, In progress
- Kayleen Garcia, MS, Thesis, In progress

Undergraduate Research/ Projects

- Alyssa Ramos- Committee Member (Utilizing AI for Visual Weld Appraisal)

B.F. Terry High School, Rosenberg, TX

Lead Vocational Agriculture Teacher, July, 2016 – June, 2023.

- Developed and implemented Lesson plans and instruction for agriculture science classes (Ag. Mechanics, Ag. Facilities & Fabrication, Welding I & II, PAFNR, Practicum in Applied Ag. Engineering)
- Supervise other Ag. Science Teachers in directing the FFA program
- Coordinated monthly meetings and fundraising events with parents and Booster Club members.
- Scheduled and coordinated meetings with teaching partners.
- Supervise and lead FFA program.
- Supervised livestock show projects and coordinated livestock showing practices.

- Promoted and Supervised SAE projects
- Instructed students on how to build agricultural mechanics projects.
- Certified students in Hunters Ed., AWS- D1.1 and D9.1 SMAW Welding
- Trained students for competition in LDEs, CDEs, and Speaking Contests

Malakoff High School, Malakoff, TX

Vocational Agriculture Teacher, January, 2014 – June, 2016

- Developed and implemented Lesson plans and instruction for agriculture science classes (Adv. Plant and Soil Science, Horticulture, Ag. Mechanics, Ag. Facilities & Fabrication, PAFNR, Floral Design, Livestock Production, and Wildlife & Fisheries Science)
- Supervised and lead FFA program
- Supervised SAE projects
- Instructed students on how to build agricultural mechanics projects.
- Certified students in Hunters Ed., OSHA, and Floral Design
- Trained students for competition in LDEs, CDEs, and Speaking Contests

Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas

Graduate Assistant “Agricultural Mechanics” (January – May, 2013)

- Developed lesson plans for introduction to agricultural mechanics Laboratory
- Evaluated student performance on class assignments and exams
- Instructed Lab. Topics, GMAW welding, electricity, and small engines
- Assisted in lecture development and instruction
- Composed and defended Thesis Research

Texas Agri-Life Extension Bryan, TX

Intern May 2011- August 2011

- Coordinated efforts with volunteers, sponsors, and co-workers
- Assisted in design, implementation, and evaluation of short courses
- Analyzed drought and program effectiveness data
- Facilitated Youth leadership events and activities with 4-H

Honors and Awards

- Magna Cum Laude, Graduate of Texas A&M 2012
- Saddle and Sirloin, Aggie Representative, 2011-2012; Member 2008-2012
- Texas A&M Dean List Spring 2010, Fall 2010, and Spring 2011,
- USAL Outstanding Junior, 2011; Outstanding Senior, 2012
- AGLS Honor roll fall 2011
- Saddle and Sirloin Workhorse Award 2011
- National Society of Collegiate Scholars, 2010

Publications

Published Articles

- **Nowak, Z.B.**, Pavelock, D. Ullrich, D.R. & Wolfskill, L.A. (2019). Leadership styles of successful FFA Advisors and FFA Programs. *Journal of Leadership Education* 18(1), 45-67. DOI:10.12806/V18/I1/R4 J

Poster Presentations

- Pavelock, D., Page, C. J., Vrazel, H., **Nowak, Z.**, and Ullrich, D. (Poster). Professional development needs assessment of Texas’ agriculture, food, and natural resources teachers. 2013 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Annual Conference, Blacksburg, VA. June 27, 2013.
- Ramos, A., Garza, A., Nowak, Z.B., & Chumbley, S. (2026). Southern Region American Association for Agricultural Education Conference, Louisville, Ky

Submissions (active research currently seeking publication)

- Chumbley, S.B., Nowak, Z. & Olvera, G. (Pending) Traditional vs. Technology Driven Welding Instruction *AAAE Western Region Conference, HI*

- Nowak, Z.B., Murphy, T., & Strong, J. (Pending). A Delphi Method: Defining the measurable indicators of success for Agricultural, Food, and Natural Resource Teachers. *Journal of Agricultural Education*.

Grants

Submitted

- (2025) USDA-NLGCA Agriculture Mechanics Education and Leadership Development (AG MELD) **Chumbley, S.B.** & Nowak, Z. \$149,981

Funded, Internal

- (2025) TAMUK Course Redesign Award Research Proposals in Ag Mechanics Nowak, Z. & **Chumbley, S.B.** \$3,500

Service

- Area 3 – ATAT conference planning representative
- Judge TX State Ag Mechanics show 2022
- TX FFA LDE judge (district- Area levels) 2014-present
- Guest Lecturer- ALEC 440 (leading Change) 2022
- American Association of Agricultural Educators- Member 2025

Contact information

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