

Gaddie named director of CU Agriculture Programs

BRANDON ROBERTS
CU MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS



Dr. Samantha Gaddie

Campbellsville University has welcomed Dr. Samantha Gaddie as the Director of Agriculture, a new program in development at CU, and she will also serve as an assistant professor of agriculture.

While the agriculture program is pending approval from the Council of Postsecondary Education, Gaddie has been working diligently to prepare the program to receive its first cohort of future agricultural leaders. This work includes creating curriculum, academic requirements and developing recruitment strategies.

Once the program is ready to receive stu-

removed from the farm with each generation.”

Having a passion for agriculture from a young age, Gaddie earned her B.S. in Career and Technical Education with an emphasis in Agriculture from the University of Kentucky in 2013. She went on to earn an M.A. in Integrated Education from the University of the Cumberlands in 2018 and an Ed.D. in Agricultural Education from Texas Tech University in 2023.

While her tenure at Green County High School is coming to an end, Gaddie still holds the same principles and hopes to bring them to CU. “My goal is to have students graduate, and they have a well-rounded experience. It will be

a blend of ag business, ag mechanics, animal science and plant science. They’ll have enough of everything that when they leave here to go into a career in agriculture, they’ll have enough background to be successful with that career.”

Dr. Monica Hardin, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, welcomed Gaddie by sharing, “Dr. Gaddie brings a vital combination of experience, knowledge, and relationships to this role. Her professional and personal reputation in the region has made her the ideal fit to lead CU’s efforts to meet the needs of our region through offering agriculture programs.”

For now, the excite-

ment will continue to grow as the new agriculture program develops. CU’s agriculture program will be unique in its focus on using community partners for our experiential learning components. By launching a degree in agriculture, CU is filling an educational gap in our region, providing opportunities that do not currently exist for students to study agriculture close to home,” explained Hardin.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Jeanette Parker, also expressed her gratitude for the creation of new academic opportunities. “I am excited about the development of the agriculture program, and the community support we are seeing.”

Parker continued, “Dr. Monica Hardin’s experience in program development, combined with Dr. Samantha Gaddie’s expertise in agriculture education, were the ingredients we needed to get this project moving. Their leadership and the support of the community are bringing this to life.”

Campbellsville University is a widely acclaimed Kentucky-based Christian university that offers over 100 programs, including doctoral, master’s, bachelor’s, associate, and certificate programs. For complete information, please visit www.campbellsville.edu.

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Scholarship recipients will be notified in April. For applications or to learn more information about these scholarships and other educational opportunities, please visit <https://transportation.ky.gov/Education/> or call (502) 782-4970.

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Team Kentucky continues investing in future transportation leaders through college scholarships

Applications due Feb. 1 for aspiring engineers, construction managers

For Kentucky students looking to build their infrastructure their communities depend on every day, applications are now open for state-sponsored engineering and construction management scholarships. Three types of higher education scholarships are offered for current or upcoming Kentucky university and college students who apply by Feb. 1, 2026.

“Kentucky’s future depends on our kids and the talent we invest in today,” said Gov. Andy Beshear. “These scholarships educate the next generation that will help make our New Kentucky Home the best place in the nation to build the American Dream. This opportunity will allow recipients to turn their education into meaningful careers serving the communities they call home.”

Up to 25 scholarships will be awarded for the 2026-2027 academic year in civil engineering, engineering technology and construction management by the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC). The annual scholarships come with a paid summer job and guaranteed employment with KYTC upon graduation. Current college students as well as upcoming freshmen are eligible. “These scholar-

ships are more than financial assistance – they’re pathways into good-paying public service jobs,” said KYTC Secretary Jim Gray. “For decades, this program has helped build a workforce of talented engineers and construction managers who keep Kentucky moving, respond when disaster strikes, and dedicate their careers to improving quality of life across our Commonwealth.”

More than 2,000 students have received approximately \$20 million from the Civil Engineering Scholarship Program since it began in 1948.

The Civil Engineering Scholarship is for students focusing on a four-year engineering degree who attend Murray State University, University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University. It is awarded to 10-20 new students and can be worth up to \$59,200 (ranging from \$7,200 to \$7,600 per semester).

The Civil Engineering Technology Scholarship was established in 2009 in partnership with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) at Big Sandy Community & Technical College in Prestonsburg. Each scholarship student will receive \$3,700 per semester

to complete an associate degree in Civil Engineering Technology. The Cabinet will award up to 10 scholarships to students attending Big Sandy Community & Technical College.

The Construction Management Scholarship is for students focusing on a four-year construction management degree at Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University or Western Kentucky University. A limited number of scholarships will be offered, and they will be worth up to \$59,200 (also ranging from \$7,200 to \$7,600 per semester).

All three types of scholarships include summer employment and job placement at KYTC after graduation. Scholarship recipients agree to work for KYTC for a year for every year they received the scholarship. Former scholarship recipients have held top management positions at KYTC including multiple deputy secretaries, state highway engineers, chief district engineers and branch managers.

KYTC Deputy State Highway Engineer John Moore applied as a senior in high school after learning about the program at the University of Kentucky E-Day

in 1992. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from the University of Kentucky in 1997 and a master’s degree in civil engineering in 2003. In his role at KYTC, John is responsible for the divisions of construction, materials, construction procurement, equipment, traffic operations and maintenance. He has also had the privilege of leading emergency response efforts like debris removal after the 2022 east-

ern Kentucky flooding and overseeing Kentucky’s recent deployment mission to North Carolina to help communities recover from Hurricane Helene flood damage.

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It’s a great honor to serve as your state representative for Green, LaRue and Hart Counties.



I am looking forward to a productive 2026 legislative session, which continues through April 15.



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