

# The Parliament

DECEMBER, 2021

## Research

by Dr. Marcus Pollard, [president@gvata.org](mailto:president@gvata.org)

Each of us receive the e-mails from current graduate students (often fellow agricultural education teachers in Georgia) seeking our participation in research. I myself have relied on others to help complete my graduate research in the past, so I try to participate in every one of those e-mails that come through the inbox.

Each of us also have opinions about the status of agricultural education, why things are the way they are, issues we currently face, issues we may face in the future, etc... And while it's great to sit around and discuss ways to solve the world's problems, it's shooting in the dark without effective research to help guide our actions.

A great example of this is the information that I shared with each of you in September regarding the numbers of teachers with different levels of experience, etc... It led to many different conversations with many of you about how we needed to focus on retention and why people thought that teachers were leaving the classroom, etc... It was great to hear from Dr. Frank Flanders in an e-mail regarding that data compared to data from 1948 that he had access to. Check out the comparison of teacher experience:

More than 10 year in 1948	More than 10 years in 2021
34%	35.5
More than 20 year in 1948	More than 20 years in 2021
12.5%	10.1
Less than 10 Years in 1948	Less than 10 years in 2021
53.5%	61%

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## Upcoming Events

- **Mid-Winter Conference:**

Mid-Winter will be held in Macon at the Macon Centreplex January 25th, 2021. Book your hotels at the Marriott now with the link sent out in an e-mail from Mr. Justin Bennett, your GVATA Executive Secretary.

## Research (cont.)

**Without getting into discussions about p-values, significance, or statistical tests, I would think the comparison of teacher retention in 1948 is shockingly similar to the numbers of 2021. I'm not discounting the need to address teacher retention, but I am pointing out that our opinions (and more importantly, our actions) need to be backed up with research.**

**We are fortunate to have the research and higher learning institutions that encourage our teachers to gain advanced degrees and pursue research topics. An opportunity for growth our board recognizes is communicating the results of the research that our members participate in back to our members.**

**With the assistance from Dr. Andrew Thoron from Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, we will have a poster presentation at our Mid-Winter Conference this January. Research presentations will be mixed among the vendors, allowing members to interact with the researchers and learn about their findings. The success of this poster presentation session will depend on the willingness of our members to participate both in presenting and interacting. I ask that if you have completed research in the last five years that you consider presenting. I would like to thank Dr. Thoron for his efforts.**

**To incentivize this, we are contributing \$500 in prize money. \$300 for 1st place, \$150 for 2nd place, and \$50 for third place. We hope this is something that will continue to grow at our Mid-Winter Conferences for years to come and serve as a means to help communicate the findings of research related to agricultural education in Georgia.**