

Teaching Curriculum Vitae

Chad E. Nelson, TAMU, Instructional Associate Professor, 2015-2025

Current Position

Texas A&M University (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications, ALEC)

Instructional Associate Professor in (ALEC) (80% Teaching, 20% Service)

Position Description: A 9-month, academic professional track appointment. The incumbent will be expected to teach courses in his/her area of expertise at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The expertise areas include experience design, youth programming, and foundations of recreation, park and tourism sciences. Teaching responsibilities also include Youth Development Certificate courses offered within the department.

Program Director Masters of Applied Youth Development

Position Description: A 9-month, administrative position responsible for teaching, advising, marketing, and recruiting for MAYD program.

EDUCATION

Texas A&M University

Doctor of Philosophy, Youth Development, *August 9, 2019*

Master of Science, Sport Management, *May 16, 2015*

Certificate in Nonprofit Management, The Bush School, *May 16, 2015*

Bachelor of Arts, Communication, *May 7, 2013*

Associate of Arts, General Studies, *May 7, 2011*

Teaching

Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications (2022-Present):

Upon joining this department from RPTS, I undertook the task of revamping the Youth Development Minor by developing four new courses. Drawing on my expertise in youth development, I focus on programs and services that nurture the personal, physical, social, and educational abilities of young people. In this field, youth workers are responsible for program development, leadership, and management, often collaborating with youth, families, organizations, and communities.

My courses center on positive youth development, program planning and evaluation, effective methods for working with young people, and the societal factors that both support and hinder their development. Graduates from this program pursue careers in various settings, including non-profit, public, and for-profit agencies that offer youth development opportunities. These roles may involve after-school programs, community initiatives, camps, outdoor adventure programs, and faith-based recreation programs.

(RPTS 2019-2022). Recreation, Park and Tourism Science department emphasizes problem-solving skills, development of an international perspective and the application of scientific principles to managerial problems. Students study both the social and life sciences to gain an understanding of how to manage and market organizations in the vast park, recreation and tourism industry. The program objectives provide the student with an introduction to the history and concepts of recreation, park and tourism sciences, followed by the knowledge and skills for both entry-level positions and for future professional

growth in the field. In addition to core courses, students must fulfill requirements for at least one certificate, and may earn additional certificates. An education in recreation, park and tourism sciences prepares students to become leaders for the 21st century with the capacity to learn from life and throughout life. **Teaching evaluation 4.84/5.00**

HLKN (2015-2019) Teaching commitments at the Department of Health and Kinesiology consisted of 12 hours per semester (24 hours annually). While on faculty, enrollment increased each semester that was complimentary to excellent scores on teaching evaluations. From 2015 to 2019, I averaged a 4.96 compared to a department average of 4.82 in his student evaluation scores. I also created a new Kinesiology 199, 120, and 223 course called Action Ball. This course has increased enrollment by 973 students since it's addition to the curriculum in the fall of 2016. During the three years in the Health and Kinesiology Department, I exceeded the minimal annual teaching evaluation requirements +465 on average. In 2016, I was awarded the Texas A&M University Fish Camp Namesake Honor. While in the department of Health and Kinesiology (2015-2019), I ranked top 3 out of the whole PEAP division in the annual Emil Mamaliga Outstanding Teaching Award presentation each year. Though I didn't win, being a consistent nominee showed my passion for creating effective teaching environments.

Courses Taught

Responsible for NEW Youth Development Minor. **New courses bolded that I developed.**

Required Courses:

ALEC 370: Youth Development Organizations and Services (Name Change Principles of Positive Youth Development) (prefix change)

ALEC 473: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Youth Development Organizations (new course)

ALEC 371: Effective Skills for Youth Development and Recreation (Skills and Techniques for Group Facilitation) (prefix change)

ALEC 372: Designing and Delivering Effective Youth Programs (new course)

ALEC 375: Youth Development Programming in Sport and Physical Activities (new course)

ALEC 377: Camp Management and Administration (new course)

RPTS 311 Planning and Implementation of Events and Programs: This course focuses on program planning, operations, administration and evaluation.

RPTS 371 Effective Practices for Youth Development: **Purpose:** This is your opportunity to demonstrate your ability to apply the concepts and techniques covered in this class to develop a comprehensive youth program, for a specific population, within the context of the youth programs.

RPTS 670/671 Foundations of Youth Development/Youth Development Skills: I created both online courses for the MRYD program while teaching my contractual load. RPTS 670 provides an overview of youth development theories and processes forming the structure of youth services in the United States.

RPTS 300-Camp Management and Leadership: High Impact Learning Course: This course will focus on the structure and organization, administration and leadership, and challenges and opportunities facing professionals interested in careers in residential camping for youth.

RPTS 201 Foundations of Recreation, Parks and Tourism. Analysis of the elements comprising a community, community assessment techniques and community development processes engaged by stakeholders and residents to improve living conditions.

Professional Experience & Appointments Related to Teaching, Service, and Mentoring

I have extensive experience in educational presentations and professional leadership, having served as a speaker at various conferences including the American Camp Association and Texas A&M's Teaching and Learning Conference. In addition to presenting, I hold a leadership role as Chair for Early Professionals in Camping (EPIC) for the Texoma Region of the American Camp Association, where I provide guidance and support to emerging professionals in the camping industry.

I actively contribute to local youth development programs, assisting with staff development at the Boys and Girls Club of the Brazos Valley and the Lincoln Center. I also lead Camp Millican, a local nonprofit focused on outdoor education, and coordinate capstone experiences for the Master of Youth Development (MAYD) Program in collaboration with local nonprofits. Additionally, I serve on university committees, including the Carnegie Advisory Committee, furthering my commitment to academic excellence and community engagement.

2024 [LEAD AGRILIFE Cohort Member](#): LEAD AgriLife is a robust program designed to accelerate the professional growth trajectory for personnel within strategic areas across Texas A&M AgriLife. The ultimate goal is to foster and develop these individuals for strategic leadership positions, all to positively impact their specific area within Texas A&M AgriLife in a cohesive manner aligned with the fundamental needs of both Texas A&M AgriLife and the people and communities it serves.

2024. [Texas Youth Institute](#): Session Speaker for The Texas Youth Institute is a life-changing experience at Texas A&M University where high school students engage with local leaders and experts on critical global challenges, participate in hands-on activities, and explore exciting ways to make a difference in Texas and around the world.

2023 [LEAD AGRILIFE Presenter](#): LEAD AgriLife Conference, Brownwood Texas. Facilitator. A new Texas A&M AgriLife program, designed for employees across the Texas A&M AgriLife agencies and Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is developing leadership skills and strengthening interpersonal and professional relationships for employees in leadership positions.

2023 [Camp Millican Camp Director](#): This program focuses on inspiring youth to learn, play, and grow in the spirit of healthy adventure and fun in nature.

2022 [Aggie Achieve Professor](#): Accommodated course offerings for Aggie Achieve students. Aggie ACHIEVE at Texas A&M University is a comprehensive transition program (CTP) for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who have exited high school. Aggie ACHIEVE provides an inclusive and immersive college education and equips students for employment in the community. and employment goals.

2022. [Advocate for disabled community](#): Worked with College of Agriculture and Life Sciences building proctor, David Leon, to create a more accessible entry into building. Replacing the "accessible buttons" with more accessible technology (motion sensors).

2021 [RPTS and Brazos Valley Boys and Girls collaboration](#): "Fun Day for Kids" Youth Development program. My RPTS 371 students develop, deliver, and evaluate youth program for local children. This program is focused on delivering a fun and transformative experience for local youth. [RPTS and Health](#)

[and Kinesiology collaboration](#) with Texas A&M Challenge Course. RPTS 371 students teamed up with Kinesiology students to practice facilitation and team building exercises to prepare them for out-of-school time settings.

2020 Selected faculty to participate in National Association of System Heads in partnership with the [Association of College and University Educators \(NASH-ACUE\) for Effective Teaching Strategies](#). Completed the Certificate in Effective College Instruction the Association of College and University Educators and the American Council on Education (ACUE)

2019 [Deerfoot Youth Camp](#): **Director 2016-2022**: Deerfoot is a three-week camp for disadvantaged boys, ages 10 to 13. Through team sports, the boys are taught discipline, respect, teamwork, trust and accountability. Unlike other youth camps, the boys that attend Deerfoot do not have to pay for anything out of pocket. After attending camp for four years, the boys also get financial help to attend Texas A&M.

Texas A&M University Distinguished Awards

2024-2025 Provost Academic Professional Track Faculty Teaching Excellence Award (\$5000)

2024 Association of Former Students College Level Teaching Award (\$2,000)

Research and Scholarship Related to Teaching

While my position does not include a research component, I feel it important to contribute to the field academically and professionally and to the rigor of a Tier 1 Research University. Although my career path is focused almost solely on teaching and service, I have found ways to use my expertise to contribute academic work.

Conference Presentations

- 2024 Nelson, C. E. (2024, December) Staff Recruitment & Culture Development. *EPIC Conference Texas A&M University*. College Station, TX: American Camp Association.
- 2024 Nelson, C. E. (2024, November) Beyond the Handshake: Intentional Icebreakers. *American Camp Association Heart of the South Fall Gathering*. Colombiana, AL: American Camp Association.
- 2024 Nelson, C. E. (2024, November) Mission Possible: Applying the Five Elements of Developmental Relationships in Camp Leadership. *American Camp Association Heart of the South Fall Gathering*. Colombiana, AL: American Camp Association.
- 2024 Nelson, C. E. (2024, May). *Cultivating a Learning Environment*. Transformational Teaching and Learning, Texas A&M University.
- 2024 Nelson, C. E. (2024). *Inclusive Camp Programming*. *The 2024 ACA, Texoma Winter Conference*. Crispin's Camp and Conference Center in Navasota, TX: American Camp Association.
- 2023 Nelson, C. E. (2023, October). ***Essential Elements for Youth Programs*** *American Camp Association Heart of the South Fall Gathering*. Little Rock, AR: American Camp Association.
- 2023 Nelson, C. E. (2023, October). ***Staffers Unite: Enriching your Camp Culture*** *Heart of the South Fall Gathering*. American Camp Association.

- 2023 Nelson, C. E. (2023, January). *Recreation is a Vital Resource to Wellness. The Arc of Harris County Annual Meeting*. The Arc Houston, Texas: The Arc of Harris County.
- 2021 *The Importance of Learning Names- Name Games in a COVID-19 Classroom*. Transformational Teaching and Learning, Texas A&M University.

Publications

Pollock, L., Nelson, C., & Li, X. (2025, April 14–17). *Deerfoot Nature Initiative: A hands-on outdoor experience* [Conference poster]. Association of International Agricultural and Extension Education Annual Conference, Inverness, Scotland.

Pollock, L., & Nelson, C. (2024, December 11–13). *Deerfoot Nature Initiative* [Conference poster]. Texas Children in Nature Network Summit, Waco, TX, United States.

Nelson, C., & Locke, D. (2024). Positive Youth Development. *AgriLife Learn*.

<https://agrifilearn.tamu.edu/s/product/positive-youth-development/01t4x00008VcK7AAK>

Nelson, C. E. (2023). Camp Millican impacting the environment and the youth in the Brazos Valley. *KRHD Channel 15 News*.

<https://www.kxxv.com/brazos/camp-millican-impacting-the-environment-and-the-youth-in-the-brazos-valley>

Nelson, C. E. (2023). Creating stewards of nature at Camp Millican. *AGRILIFE Today*.

<https://agrififetoday.tamu.edu/2023/11/22/creating-stewards-of-nature-at-summer-camp-millican/>

Jiang, J., Ellis, G. D., Ettekal, A. V., & Nelson, C. E. (2022). Situational engagement experiences: Measurement options and theory testing. *Journal of Business Research*.

Jiang, J., Ellis, G., Ettekal, A., & Nelson, C., (2021, March 17). *Situational engagement experiences: measurement options and theory testing*. Association of Collegiate Marketing Educators (ACME).

Nelson, C. E. (2020). *What is Youth Voice & The Benefits?* Research Briefs.

<https://byedl.tamu.edu/resources/research-briefs/>

Nelson, C, Ellis, G.E., Jiang, J., (2020) *Action Ball, Basketball, and Ultimate Frisbee: An Equivalency Test for Energy Expenditure and Experience Quality*. Research Mini-Session NIRSA Phoenix, AZ.

Grants

2023 Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) Community Outreach Program Grant: \$68,900

Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) Community Outreach Program Grant for \$68,900 to support Deerfoot Youth Camp members an opportunity to engage with nature during the academic school year. Deerfoot Nature Initiative (DNI) will engage Deerfoot campers via mailed and virtual TPWD activities, in-person hands-on TPWD activities at their closest regional location (Houston, San Antonio, College Station), a trip to a TPWD facility, and an overnight camp experience.

2022 & 2023 The Neuhaus-Shepardson Grant: \$1,500

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences award for professional development in teaching to enhance capacity and skills as a teacher and mentor and in teaching innovations to enhance the learning environment and student success.

2021 The Neuhaus-Shepardson Grant: \$1,500

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences award for professional development in teaching to enhance capacity and skills as a teacher and mentor and in teaching innovations to enhance the learning environment and student success.

2021 Certificate in Effective College Instruction: \$1,000

Completion of a 25-module course in effective teaching practices requiring the implementation of evidence-based instructional approaches. The credential and award is co-issued by the American Council on Education.