

To: Emily Dunn, Vice Principal  
cc: Kathy, Assistant to Principal Mark Eversole

Dear Emily,

I am working with a group of faculty in the Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management at CSU to develop a new undergraduate major for our department. We would like to learn what appeals to high school students who are interested in science and what is important to them for their college education and future careers. Toward that end, we would like to hold a focus group (essentially a group discussion) with 4 to 8 science-oriented high school students. The interview will feel comfortable, but is actually pretty structured and will take 60 minutes. It will be led by a trained facilitator from The Institute for Teaching and Learning at CSU, Karen Falkenberg. I have attached the interview guide for the first focus group we held this week with undergraduates in the College of Agricultural Sciences. This will be adapted to be appropriate for high school students, but will still address the same major topics. One or two faculty who are committee members will be present to observe the discussion, and we will record the session.

The information gathered will be used by the committee to inform the development of the undergraduate major and for materials used to apply for approval of a new major within CSU. The focus group can be scheduled before, during or after the school day, depending on what is convenient for the students and what will work with Karen and my schedules. We would like to provide pizza and soft drinks (or breakfast food and drink, if it is a morning session) to the students before the session, too.

I have been in touch with Rick Blas about this so it is on his radar. Thank you very much for your assistance.

Best regards,

Cini