

SPOTLIGHT - Dr. Britt Moore



Dr. Britt Moore is a soil scientist with a passion for teaching and mentoring. Growing up in Chicago, Britt's first exposure to agriculture was through attending a magnet school, Chicago High School for Agriculture Sciences (CHSAS). This school choice was initially made as a way to better prepare him for college. By graduation, Britt found that agriculture was fascinating and that many of his interests in science overlapped with agricultural studies. After studying Agricultural Science and Biology at Truman State University and completing an M.S. in Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University, Britt became a high school science teacher.

"Teaching high school students in an under-resourced, urban school was an eye-opening experience," recalls Britt. "I taught environmental science. I thought it was important to help my students understand the connection between the environment, food, and agriculture." His first lesson on food and the environment began by asking the class where food comes from. "They looked at me as though I asked the most stupid question they'd ever heard and replied, "food comes from the grocery store!" These students had

never been to a farm or had an agriculture class. They had never been directly exposed to agriculture, so how would they know? If I was not there with them as their teacher, they would never have been asked to think about the connection between food and agriculture in their public education."

Britt's experiences are a testament to the importance of exposing *all* youth to agriculture. Diversifying our agricultural landscapes can only be fully successful when we diversify the faces of agriculture. He recently wrote in the Green Lands Blue Waters Civic Scientist Series³:

"A society where People of Color are full and equal partners in the food system, from farm to fork, is a goal that (agriculture) should aspire to - transitioning towards greater inclusion is possible; however, we must possess the willingness and creativity to actualize this change. Structural change cannot happen in the absence of direct, thoughtful engagement to address the needs and concerns of marginalized communities."