

# Agriculture and Education: Inspiring Future Agricultural Workers

by Robert King, Ph.D., CCA

As a summer employee under the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Tammy Quick of Henrietta, NY identifies tree species and helps farmers quarantine fruit trees suffering from plum pox. Her young daughters, Abby and Lindsay, share their mom's passion for science, agriculture and protecting the environment. They know a fun day outdoors includes naming the trees that they see.

In June, Tammy graduated from Monroe Community College with an associate degree in liberal arts and sciences and a certificate in agriculture and food studies offered through the colleges' Agriculture & Life Sciences Institute ([www.monroecc.edu/go/agriculture](http://www.monroecc.edu/go/agriculture)). She says the degree and certificate opened the door to a Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) position with the USDA. She is proud of her new job and to be the first of her siblings to graduate from college.

"My grandparents on both sides had farms in Hornell and Chili," Tammy said. "Nature, our resources, and sustainability are things I am passionate about... a co-worker at MCC told me about MCC's Agriculture & Life Sciences Institute. I found my niche."

During her studies at MCC, Tammy received an MCC Foundation scholarship and went on field trips

AGRICULTURE 14



Tammy Quick shares her knowledge of agriculture with her daughter Lindsay outside of MCC's greenhouse.  
Photos courtesy of Monroe Community College



Immediately after earning a degree and certificate at MCC in June, Tammy Quick of Henrietta began working for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.



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