

The Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA)

2014

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Minneapolis Minnesota

July 26–29, 2014

Hyatt Regency Hotel – Nicollet Mall

Session: Employers provide feedback on skills needed by agribusiness, agricultural, and applied economics graduates

Tuesday, July 29, from 9:45 am – 11:15 am

Sponsored by The Teaching, Learning, and Communication (TLC), Undergraduate Student Section (SS-AAEA) and Agribusiness Economics and Management (AEM) sections of the AAEA

Agenda

- 9:45 **Session Introduction**
Sam Funk
- 9:50 **Cargill**
Matt Stommes and Michael Boland
- 10:05 **Land O'Lakes**
William Mujica and Allen Gray
- 10:20 **General Mills**
Aaron Riippa and Michael Boland
- 10:35 **Conversation with the audience**

Biographies of the Industry Participants

MATT STOMMES



Matt Stommes is a Supervisor for Cargill at one of the AgHorizons business unit facilities in Savage, Minnesota. He has worked for Cargill for four years with

responsibilities for team leadership and occupational health and safety. He participates in Cargill's college recruiting efforts. Matt grew up on a dairy farm in Eden Valley, Minnesota in a family with 10 younger siblings. He graduated from the University of Minnesota with majors in Finance, Risk Management and Insurance, and Supply Chain Management and a minor in Construction Management. Matt played football for four years with the University of Minnesota Gophers and enjoys time with his wife and daughter, and other family and friends.

WILLIAM MUJICA



William Mujica is a Senior Human Resource Manager who has provided HR business strategic support to Fortune 500 companies for over 10 years. William has worked with Polar—a Pepsi-affiliated company in Venezuela, Wells Fargo, General Mills, and most recently Land O'Lakes,

Inc. He specializes in aligning and supporting HR strategies to drive the business imperatives and Vision. William graduated from Hamline University with a master's degree in management and has a master's degree in human resources and industrial relations from the University of Minnesota. William has experience working with Supply Chain/Manufacturing, Sales, Customer Service and implementing companywide HR strategic programs. In addition, he leads the Land O'Lakes employee resources group (ERG) - LOL Amigos. William has also partnered with Junior Achievement, United Way, and Teatro del Pueblo to promote employee involvement in the community. Currently, he is leading a potential partnership with the MN Department of Education to explore opportunities in developing programs that align with the agricultural business' needs and students' career path options. William is originally from Caracas-Venezuela.

AARON RIIPPA



Aaron Riippa graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Applied Economics and has been at General Mills for 3 years, including 1 year

as an intern in the Value-Added Ingredients group within Sourcing. As a full-time Buyer Aaron has managed spend categories in the Marketing Sourcing Solutions categories, including supporting all Brand and Marketing sourcing for print, Publishing, and Sampling. Aaron has also managed Sales Broker relationships and integrated shopper marketing promotion agencies and strategies. Aaron recently started his MS in Operations Management from the University of Arkansas.