

Biography – Dan Barry Croom

Barry Croom is an NC State alumnus and professor in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education. Croom joined the NCSU faculty in 1996 as an Extension Associate to provide leadership for career and technical education programs for rural youth interested in agricultural careers. Part of his responsibilities included training and development for high school teachers, development of curriculum, instructional and support materials for the agricultural education programs.

Upon earning his doctorate in 1999, Croom joined the teaching faculty at NC State University where he taught courses in instructional methodology, educational program planning and youth development. He also directed the Institute for Future Agricultural Leaders for several years. In 2010, Croom was promoted to professor in the Department of Agricultural and Extension Education, and now coordinates the Agricultural Science academic program.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Croom maintains a research program that focuses on effective teaching, career and technical education policy, and diversity in agricultural education. Croom conducts historical research in agricultural education and is one of four professionals in agricultural education in the United States who regularly engages in historical research. He has served as the national president of the Association for Career and Technical Education Research. He also maintains the historical archives for the American Association for Agricultural Education, and was recently appointed as the Editor of the Journal of Agricultural Education beginning in 2013.

Croom is a Fellow of North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture and a member of the NC State University Academy of Outstanding Teachers. He has been recognized as the Outstanding Academic Advisor in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and recently received the Distinguished Teaching Award by the Agricultural Education Division of the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists.

Prior to coming to NC State University, Croom taught agricultural education courses at Midway High School and Jones Senior High School in Eastern North Carolina. While teaching full-time at Midway High School, he earned a Master of Education Degree in Agricultural Education and an Advanced Certificate in Occupational Education from North Carolina State University. Also, during his tenure at Midway High School, Croom was selected by the National FFA Organization to develop and present in-service workshops to teachers across the United States. During his high school tenure, his students earned state and national recognition for academic achievement. He was recognized as the Sampson County Schools Teacher of the Year, and he received the Honorary American FFA Degree by the National FFA Organization.

Dr. Croom lives in Wake County with his wife and best friend Debbie, and two sons Sean and Brian. He is active in church activities and serves as a leader in the Boy Scouts of America. His interests include researching history and genealogy, hiking, camping, and fishing.