TRUE GRIT:
DEscribing the GRIT
SCORE OF STUDENTS
IN AN INTRODUCTORY
AGRICULTURE COURSE

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NEED FOR RESEARCH

Non-cognitive factors likely play a large role in learning (Bazelais & Lemay, 2016).

Understanding non-cognitive factors can help shape educational programming for students at all levels (Berg & Pietrasz, 2017).
NEED FOR RESEARCH

Why Grit?

- Grit is passion and persistence toward a task (Duckworth, Peterson, Matthews, & Kelly, 2007).

- Understanding grit can help instructors understand student mindset and overall commitment (Larkin-Wong & Hogan, 2013).
PURPOSE

Describe grit in scores for students in an introductory agricultural education course.
METHODS

Population
- Students enrolled in the AGED 180 Introduction to Agricultural Education course in Fall 2017 $N = 21$
- 100% response rate (results limited to this population)

Descriptive survey
- Demographic information
- Duckworth (2007) 10-item grit scale
  - Previous reliability estimates between $\alpha = 0.82$ and $\alpha = 0.86$
METHODS

Distribution
- Paper versions of instrument were distributed at the beginning of the third class session of the semester

Analysis
- Paper versions were entered into Excel spreadsheet
- Analyzed with SPSS v 23
FINDINGS

GRIT SCORES OVERALL

The graph shows the grit scores overall for two groups: AGED 180 and Normative. The grit score for AGED 180 is 3.72, and for Normative, it is 3.8.
FINDINGS
GRIT SCORES BY CONSTRUCT

- Overall: 3.72
- Passion: 4.05
- Perseverance: 3.44
FINDINGS

GRIT SCORES BY GENDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>3.83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Overall, the grit scores are highest for females, followed by males and then the overall group.
CONCLUSIONS

Mean grit for students was near the reported normative score

- To think about:
  - What would differences be in: general education course? non-major courses? different colleges/degree programs?
CONCLUSIONS

Female students reported higher grit than males

- To think about:
  - Is this the case across the board?
  - Is there a difference between gender for grit scores?
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct longitudinal examination to track grit over time
- Compare results with other populations
- Examine ways to increase grit in students enrolled in Colleges of Agriculture
THANK YOU