

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE

# "Preliminary Results of Educating 40 Military Veteran Beginning Farmers/Ranchers through the Farm Education and Training (FEAT) Project

→  
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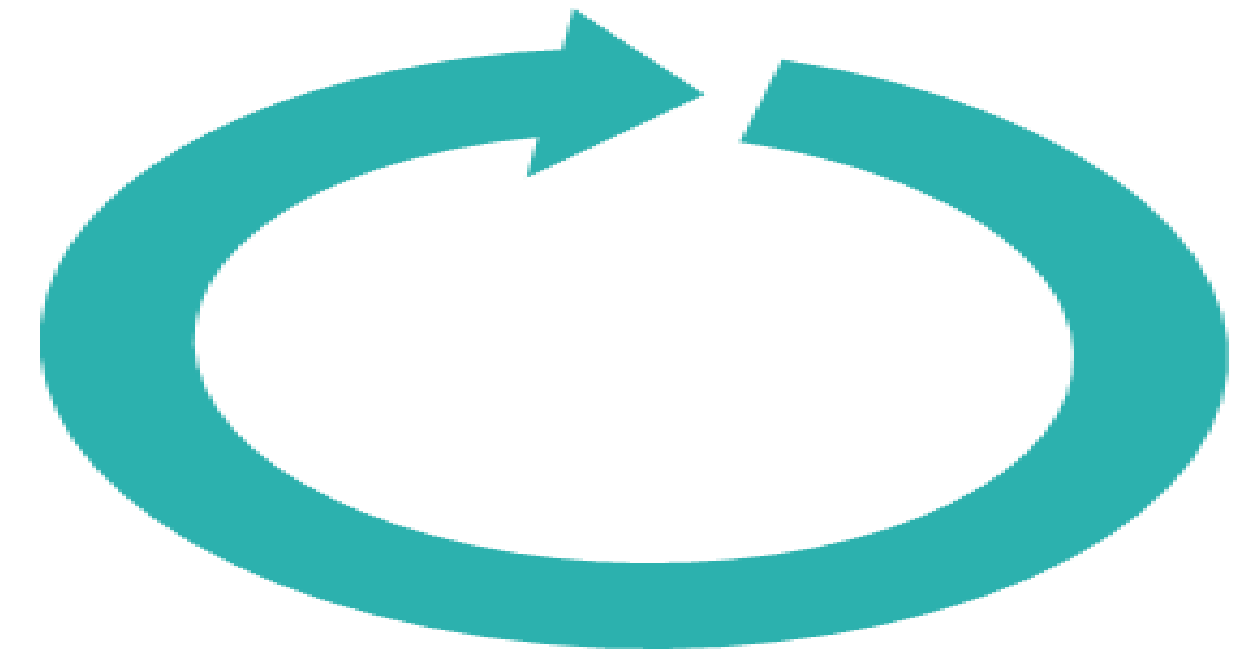
Robert J. Fetsch, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Colorado State University





# “Closing The Circle”

- Our Military Veterans (Active, Guard, USAR)
  - Served our country and their fellow citizens.
  - After completing their service, transitioning back to civilian life includes the need for employment.
- FEAT Initiative
  - provides returning Veterans with training and employment opportunities in agriculture
  - provides healing, counseling and mentoring







# Partnership Team

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- Compatible Lands Foundation
  - Preventing incompatible land use to protect *military readiness* and preserve *working lands*.
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
  - Battleground to Breaking Ground
- USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture
  - AgVets Grant



# **Learning Objectives**

- 1. To become acquainted with the history of the Farm Education and Training (FEAT) Project.**
- 2. To learn about the components of the one-year, three-phase, classroom and in-the-field treatment.**
- 3. To learn about the eight measures used in the pretest-posttest design and preliminary result impressions.**



# Project Partners



The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.



# Who We Serve

**Active-Duty Military,  
Transitioning Military,  
Military Veterans, and  
Spouses**





# What We Do







# Phase 1-One Day Workshop





# Phase 2- 16 Week Business Planning Course

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AGRI LIFE



# Phase 3



100 Hours of Hands-On Training & Production Specific Coursework



# Training Farms

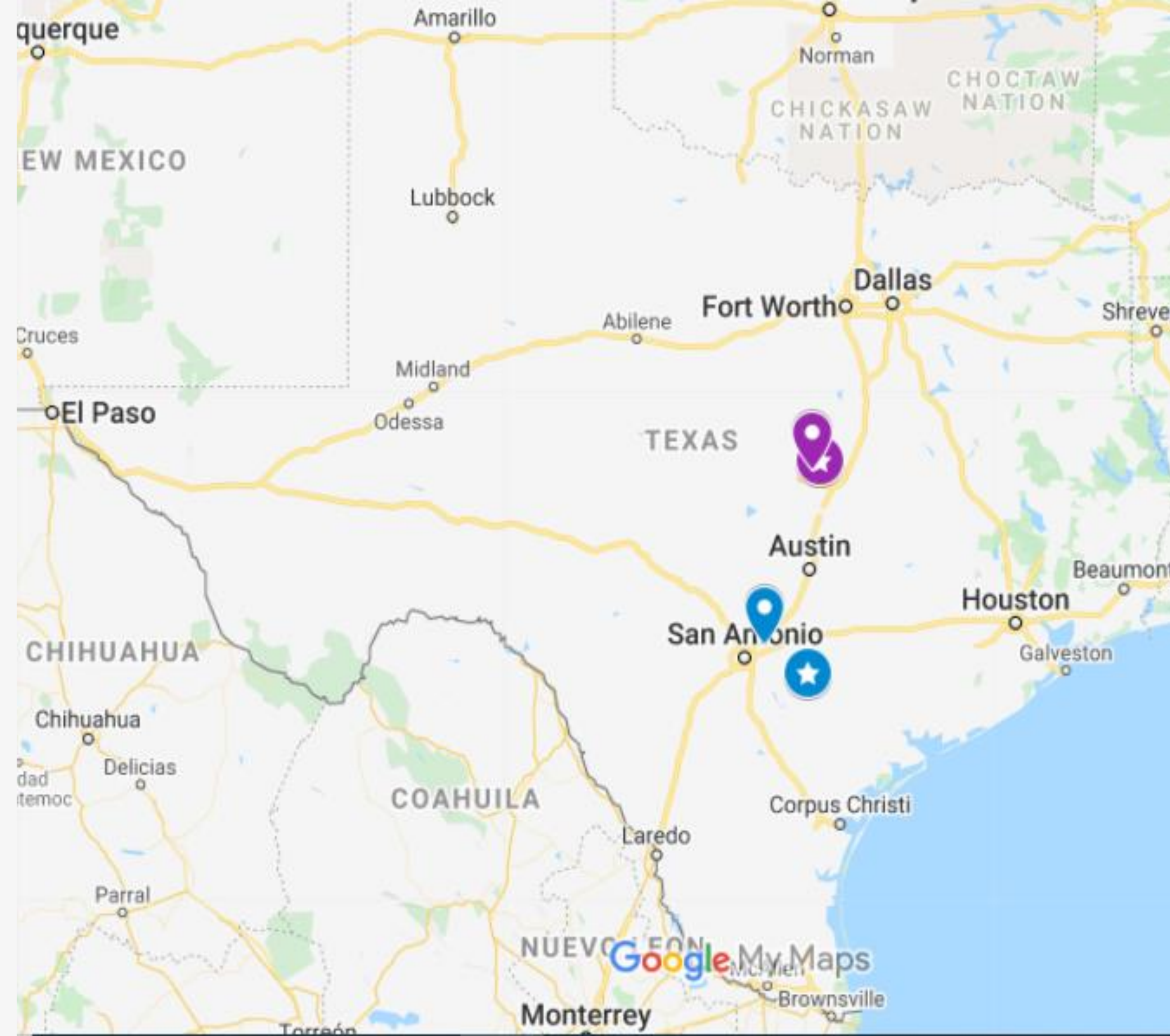
Supported by Grant Funding

Farmer's Education & Training Center

–Gatesville, TX

Mesquite Field Farm

–Nixon, TX





# Auxiliary Services

1. Community of Practice
2. Mentors
3. Transition & Disability Services
  - VetAdvisor
  - Texas AgrAbility





CRITERIA



ANALYSIS



PERFORMANCE



APPROACH



# EVALUATION



IMPROVEMENT



RESULTS



FEEDBACK



ASSESSMENT



## Method

We used 6 valid and reliable measures to assess pretest-posttest changes reported by 40 military veteran beginning farmers before and after they completed the FEAT Project.



# Goal

To work as a FEAT Team to find out what works and what does not work to assist 90 military veteran farmers in becoming self-employed in food and agriculture by February 28, 2023.



## Today We Will Report on 6/8 Measures.

- Military to Civilian Questionnaire (M2CQ)
- Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy Scale (ESE)
- Veterans RAND 12-Item Health Survey (VR12)
- Work and Meaning Inventory (WAMI)
- McGill Quality of Life Survey (MQOL)
- Independent Living & Working Survey (ILW)
- Skills Assessment (SA)
- Farm and Ranch Business Health Assessment (FRBHA)



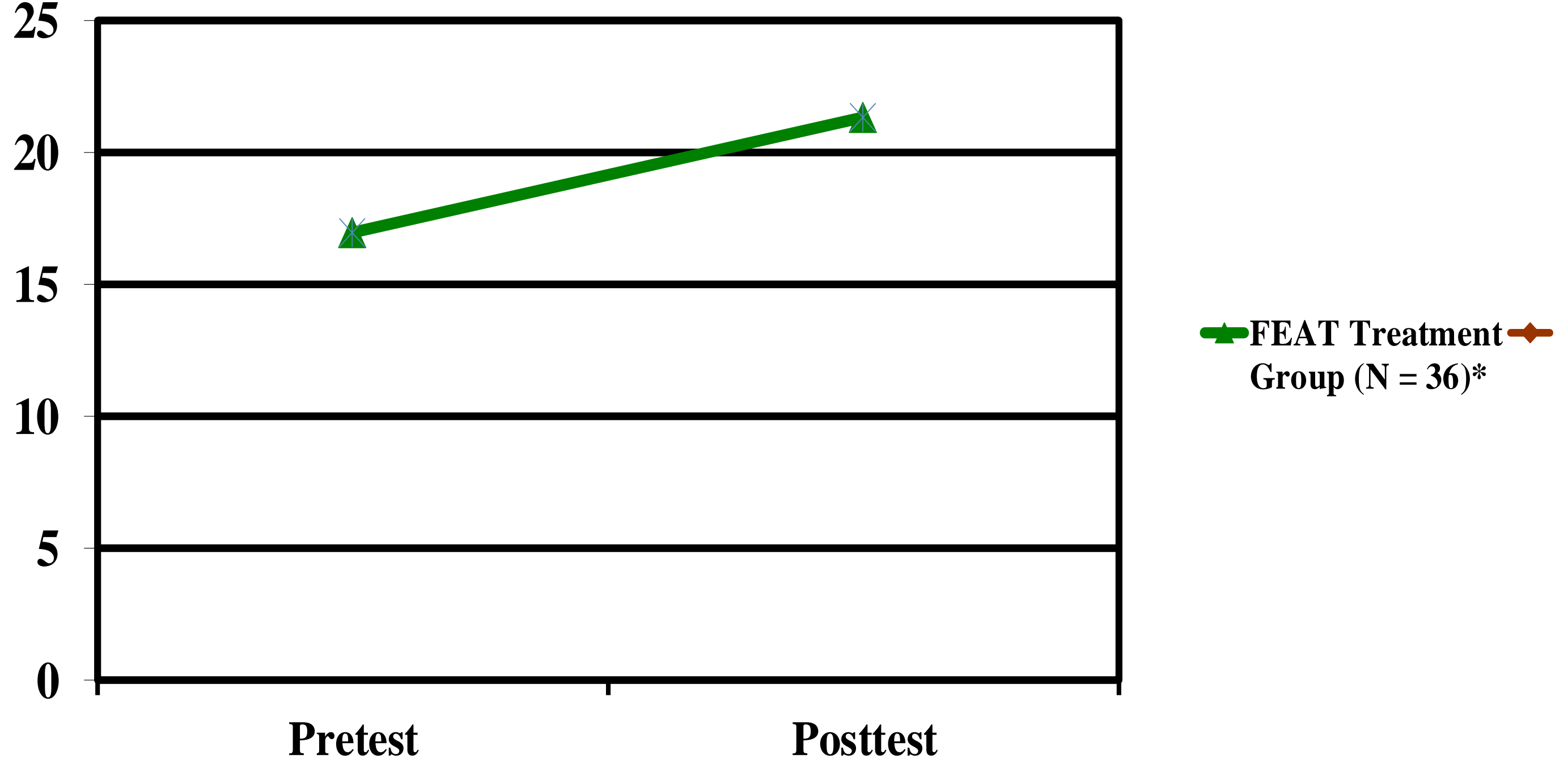
# Our Most Statistically Significant Results Were in...

- Independent Living & Working Survey (ILW)
- Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy Scale (ESE)
  - Marketing
  - Innovation
  - Financial Control
  - Total





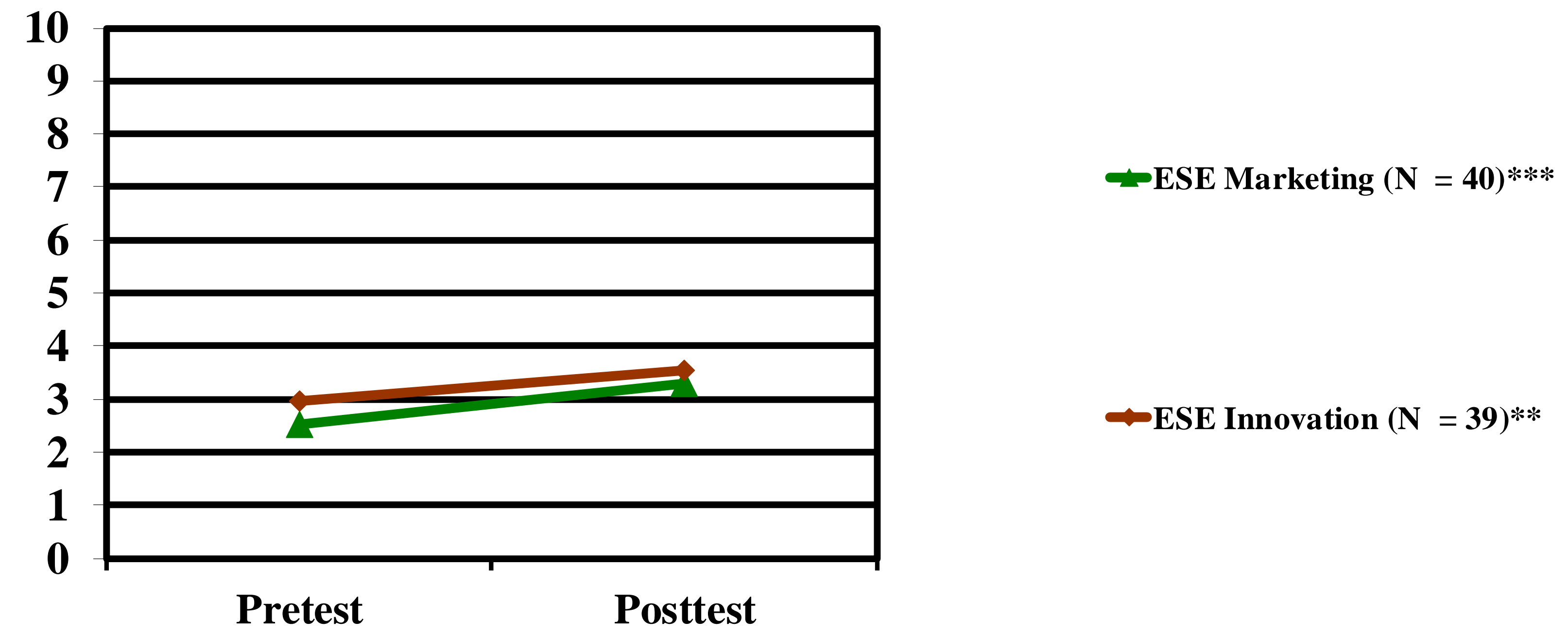
# ILW Pretest-Posttest Total Score Changes for FEAT Treatment Group





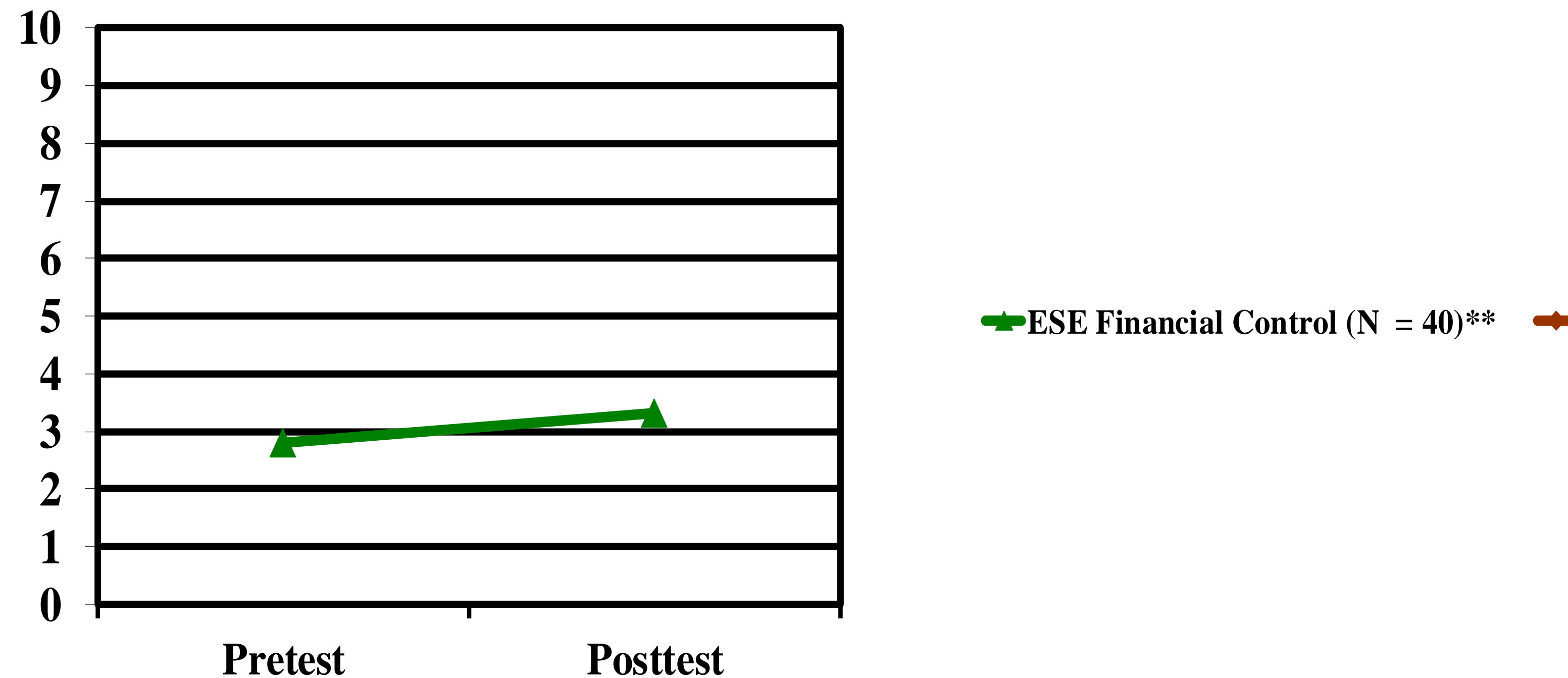
# ESE Marketing and Innovation Subscale

## Pretest-Posttest Changes for FEAT Treatment Group



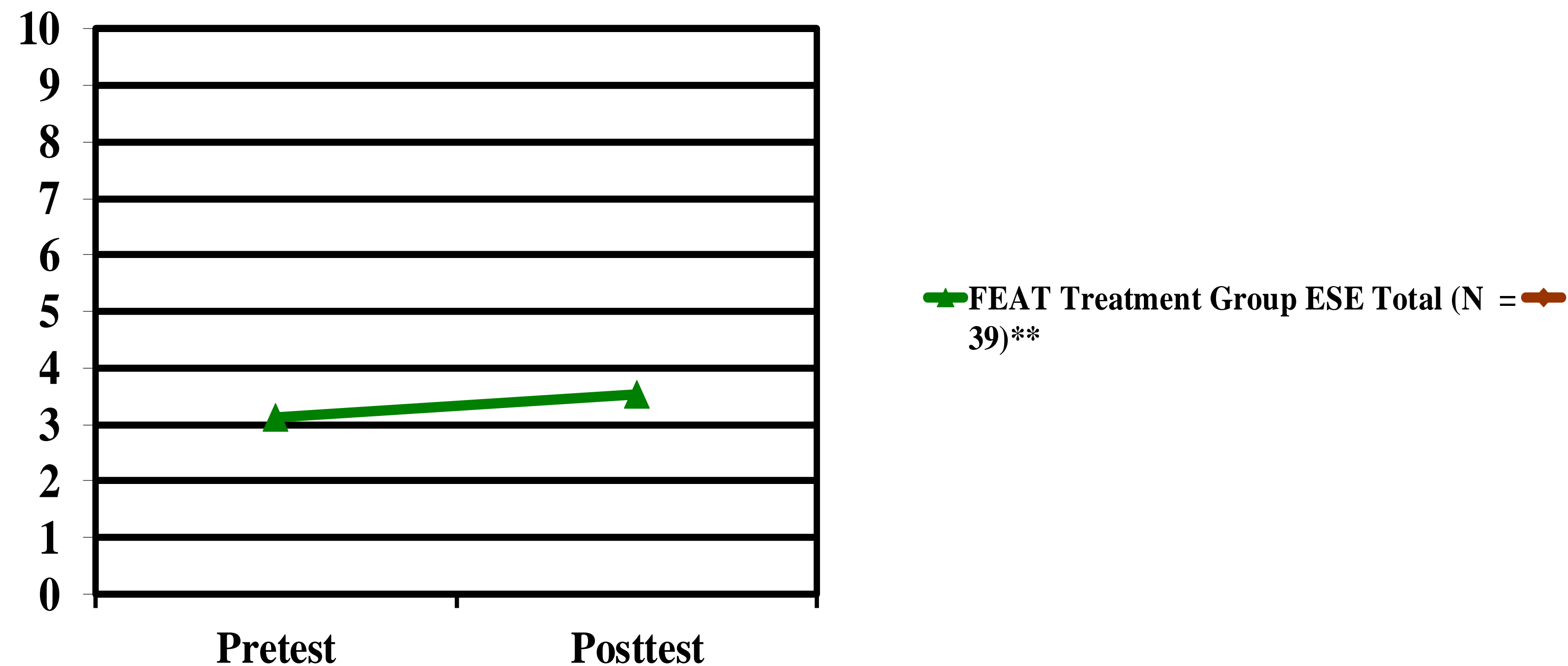


# ESE Financial Control Subscale Pretest- Posttest Changes for FEAT Treatment Group





# Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy Total Pretest- Posttest Changes for FEAT Treatment Group





## We See Possible Trends in...

McGill Quality of Life (MQOL) Survey

- Single Item Scale
- Physical Well Being
- Physical Symptoms



# We See No Changes in...



Military to Civilian Questionnaire (M2CQ)

Entrepreneurial Self-Efficacy Scale (ESE)

- Management

- Risk Taking

Veterans RAND 12-Item Health Survey (VR12)

- Physical

- Mental

Work and Meaning Inventory (WAMI)

- Positive Meaning

- Meaning Making through Work

- Greater God Motivations

- Total Meaningful Work



# Questions? & Answers

**Thank you very much!**