

**Memorandum of Understanding
Among
The National Society for Minorities in Agriculture
Natural Resources, and Related Sciences, the National Association of
State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), and the NASDA
Foundation**

I. PARTIES

The Parties of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are the National Society for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS), the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), and the NASDA Foundation.

II. PURPOSE

MANRRS, NASDA, and the NASDA Foundation seek to expose minority students to opportunities at state departments of agriculture and the field of policy and governmental affairs as it relates to the food and agriculture industries. MANRRS will partner with NASDA and the NASDA Foundation to create a policy training program for undergraduate and graduate MANRRS students. The MANRRS-NASDA Foundation Ag Policy Summit will introduce students to federal policies that impact the food and agriculture industry; associations, agencies and organizations who shape policies; and the federal agencies who implement policies. MANRRS, NASDA, and NASDA Foundation will work with private industry and government partners to obtain funding to support the development and sustainability of the program.

This MOU does not guarantee funding.

III. OBJECTIVES

The objectives are 1) to develop an Ag Policy program and coordinate activities to increase employment, educational, and business opportunities in government affairs for students and professionals of MANRRS member institutions, and 2) utilize NASDA's network of state departments of agriculture to identify opportunities for minority students at the state level. This MOU will guide the parties in pursuit of the following objectives:

- a. Increase the number of minorities in agriculture, natural resources and related sciences for improved opportunities in employment, education, training and contracting opportunities.

- b. Partner with NASDA and the NASDA Foundation on technical assistance and training programs designed to increase the knowledge and understanding of policy by MANRRS members and vice versa.
- c. Increase MANRRS members' understanding of current agricultural, natural resources, and food policy issues.
- d. Increase NASDA members' understanding of current MANRRS programs and state chapters.
- e. Establish relationships and network with partner organizations and professionals who work on agricultural policy initiatives, including state departments of agriculture.
- f. Promote understanding of how state and federal agriculture policy is developed and implemented at the national level among student participants.
- g. Support participation in MANRRS/NASDA/NASDA Foundation sponsored programs such as career fairs, student employment/internships, training conferences, technical assistance, and research studies.

IV. MANRRS/NASDA/NASDA FOUNDATION STEERING COMMITTEE Plan for Implementation

MANRRS, NASDA, and the NASDA Foundation will establish a plan for implementation of the Ag Policy Summit. This plan will be developed by a working Steering Committee comprised of representatives from MANRRS, NASDA, and NASDA Foundation.

MANRRS, NASDA, and the NASDA Foundation shall jointly establish a MANRRS/NASDA/NASDA Foundation Steering Committee to serve as a governing body for all MOU initiatives. The Steering Committee shall implement this MOU by providing guidance, direction, and coordination to ensure that mutual benefits and interests are served. This body shall consist of members from MANRRS, NASDA, and NASDA Foundation. MANRRS and NASDA Foundation shall appoint co-Chairs for the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall meet on a scheduled basis as determined by the members. The Steering Committee shall serve in a management capacity, rather than an advisory capacity.

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES

In fulfilling the objectives of this MOU, the parties agree to participate in and be responsible for the activities as follows:

MANRRS will conduct one or more of the following, subject to the availability of resources:

- a. Inform MANRRS members of this MOU and disseminate copies of it appropriately;
- b. Provide MANRRS members and affiliates with information on employment, training, and grant opportunities with NASDA, NASDA Foundation, and state departments of agriculture, as well as provide information to students regarding the NASDA mission and various career opportunities;
- c. Collaborate with NASDA and the NASDA Foundation to assess the availability of distance learning technologies;
- d. Assist in organizing, funding, and implementing special projects such as workshops, conferences, forums, and community outreach initiatives relating to this MOU;
- e. Foster communications between members and local chapters of MANRRS with NASDA and state departments of agriculture;
- f. Encourage, identify, and solicit student participation in NASDA and NASDA Foundation supported programs;
- g. Collaborate with NASDA and the NASDA Foundation on its Diversity Training Initiatives.

NASDA and the NASDA Foundation will conduct one or more of the following, subject to the availability of resources:

- a. Inform state departments of agriculture of this MOU and request their participation in its implementation;
- b. Provide information to MANRRS on opportunities such as job announcements, internships, and mentorship opportunities available at state departments of agriculture related to agriculture, natural resource conservation, and recreational natural resources issues;
- c. Provide information to state departments of agriculture on MANRRS chapters, programs, and services related;
- d. Provide information to MANRRS on employment, education, contracting and other program opportunities with NASDA and the NASDA Foundation;

- e. Increase the recruitment of minorities through MANRRS for internships, scholarships, fellowships, seasonal employment, and related education, training and employment opportunities at NASDA, NASDA Foundation, and state departments of agriculture;
- f. Encourage state departments of agriculture to consider contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements with MANRRS to promote research in areas of mutual interest;
- g. Assist in organizing, funding, and implementing special projects such as workshops, conferences, forums, and community outreach initiatives relating to this MOU;
- h. Participate in MANRRS conferences and other programs by providing exhibits, workshops, recruitment and other appropriate information and activities when time permits;
- i. Increase collaborative efforts with MANRRS to promote community outreach initiatives and partnership school programs; and
- j. Provide MANRRS with support, as available, to meet the objectives of this MOU.

VII. COSTS

Nothing herein shall be construed as obligating MANRRS, NASDA or the NASDA Foundation to expend funds or devote a certain amount of personnel time and effort in furtherance of the purposes and responsibilities set forth in this MOU, except as agreed to in writing by the parties. All expenditures by MANRRS, NASDA, and the NASDA Foundation are subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

VIII. PUBLICATIONS, INTELLECTUAL PROSPECTS

MANRRS, NASDA, and NASDA Foundation shall not unilaterally issue a publication pertaining to its relationship or its work under this MOU without consulting the key MANRRS, NASDA, and NASDA Foundation officials identified in Article X. In all cases, proper credit will be given to the efforts of those parties contributing to the publication.

IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

This MOU shall become effective upon the date that the last signature is affixed here to. It shall remain in effect for a period of **five years** or until modified or terminated. This MOU may be modified or amended upon written consent of all parties or may be

terminated at any time by any party upon 60 days written notice to the other parties. The parties agree to review and evaluate the effectiveness of this MOU annually.

X. ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACTS

MANRRS

Ebony Webber, MBA
Chief Operating Officer
Phone: (404) 347-2975
Email: ebony.webber@manrrs.org

NASDA Foundation

Dr. Lisa Benson
Executive Director
Phone: (571) 418-0454
Email: lisa.benson@nasda.org

XI. KEY OFFICIALS


The key persons responsible for implementation of this MOU shall be as follows or their designated representatives. These persons may delegate their authority and responsibility hereafter.

Dr. Antomia Farrell
National President, Minorities in Agriculture, National Resources, and Related Sciences

Dr. Barbara Glenn
Chief Executive Officer, National Association for State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA)

Dr. Lisa Benson
Executive Director, NASDA Foundation

XII. SIGNATURES




National President, National Society for Minorities in
Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences

___ 08/20/2020 ___
Date



Chief Executive Officer, NASDA

___ 08/20/2020 ___
Date



Executive Director, NASDA Foundation

___ 08/20/2020 ___
Date