

1890 Institution Teaching, Research, Extension Capacity Building Grants (CBG) Program

This document highlights stakeholder feedback received from the 1890 Association of Extension Administrators (AEA) and 1890 Association of Research Directors (ARD) Joint Winter Meeting in Washington, DC on January 30, 2018.

Here are various perspectives (organized by institutions) shared during the Student Enrollment in the Food and Agricultural Sciences session. There were two overarching questions proposed during the meeting.

1. What can NIFA do (or do more of) to increase the number of students pursuing postsecondary degrees in the food and Ag sciences at the 1890 institutions?
 2. What types of recruitment and retention strategies are working?
- Junior MANRRS chapters have been effective in recruiting middle and high school students. Additionally, other factors to consider are
 - Students are not aware of specific careers in food and Ag sciences.
 - Mechanisms are needed to support/incentivize student leadership programs.
 - 1890 LGUs need funding to support recruitment efforts, such as travel, internships, etc.
 - MANRRS students are used to help recruit students. Additionally, the institution has counseling centers in place to identify and support Ag students who are struggling academically. New certificate programs for high schoolers are being used to foster students' pursuit of a B.S. degree. Study abroad programs help to understand the globalization of agriculture. Student-focused seminars on Ag topics are integral.
 - Increase funding limit for the CBG teaching project type to increase support for recruitment and retention programs.
 - There is a negative perception of Ag...especially for black students. Only 300 of the 10,000 students at the institution are majoring in Ag. Need to develop pipelines that start in middle school. More scholarships for Ag are needed. Summer programs help to expose prospective students to Ag.
 - Use of 4-H as a recruitment model has been successful. They have adults in communities who are doing creative activities to expose kids to agriculture. Additionally, Ag and Art have been combined to incentivize student participation. Another example are the Teen Success Programs, provides opportunities for students to shadow local Extension Agents. Building and sustaining the relationship with the local FFA office is also integral. Exposing K-12 audiences to Ag Field days is important for demonstrating practical applications of science and technology in agriculture (i.e. drones).
 - The USDA/AgDiscovery Program (which is sponsored by APHIS) is a useful recruitment mechanism that exposes middle and high school students to food and Ag sciences. Strong 4-H programs can also help to recruit students into Ag.

- AgDiscovery and strong 4-H programs are paramount. Need to address minority land loss issue, as we need to support and encourage the next generation of farmers and ranchers.
- A CBG project, targeted high school juniors through a 5-week residential program, provided students with ACT/SAT training and an internship with Cooperative Extension or a USDA agency. The program was widely successful and translated into enrollment gains for the university (50% of participating students entered Ag). Twenty students participated in each cohort. Participants received a \$2,500 stipend. This could be a model for the 1890 LGUs.

Other Comments

- The USDA/1890 National Scholars program has been effective in recruiting minority Ag students. USDA should scale up programs like this to reach more students.
- Provide early ACT and SAT training to middle and high school students so that they can be prepared for university admissions.
- Use data analytics. Where are students coming from? Additionally, what are the best practices being used to recruit and retain students?

Synthesis

The Stakeholder feedback was captured into three categories 1) scholarships/incentivized programs 2) recruitment programs, and 3) retention programs. It is recommended that ongoing work need to be discussed at NIFA around these concerns.