

### **Diversifying the Next Generation of Agricultural STEM Leaders**

1. NIFA is committed to developing an agricultural science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (Ag STEM) workforce representative of current and projected demographics in America.
2. A NIFA-funded Purdue University report projects that there will be 57,900 average annual openings for graduates with a bachelor's degree or higher in agriculture-related fields until the year 2020.
3. Given the changing demographics of the U.S., producing the number of STEM graduates demanded by the industry will require diversifying the Ag STEM workforce.
  - a. By 2050, African Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, and Latinos will constitute 50 percent of the U.S. population
  - b. In 2015, only 4.8 percent of the degree holders in US agricultural Science Workforce were African Americans; 6.0 percent were Hispanics.
  - c. U.S. colleges and agricultural science programs need to recruit diverse populations of students in STEM fields.
  - d. Colleges need to develop and implement programs to improve college success rates of underrepresented students.
4. NIFA seeks continued support of programs and partnerships that increase access to the Ag STEM fields.
  - a. These programs build institutional capacity, facilitate access to higher education, and provide students with experiential opportunities in the community.
  - b. For more than a decade, student enrollment has become increasingly diverse at institutions supported by NIFA.