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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

# December 2020

INVESTING IN SCIENCE | SECURING OUR FUTURE | WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV



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# Agenda

- Welcome and Poll
- General information about applying to NIFA
- Overview of Competitive Education Programs
- Talks from successful awardees
  - AFRI Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates
  - AFRI Professional Development for Agricultural Literacy
  - Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program
- Zoom Breakout rooms
- Q&A and Adjourn



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# Welcome from Dr. Parag Chitnis, Acting Director

- Welcome and thank you for joining us today.
- To improve customer service, NIFA is organizing regular listening sessions for stakeholders.
- In response to stakeholder request, provide proposal writing and management advice from awardees
- Increasing applications from minority-serving institutions is a FY 2021 goal for NIFA
- The session today focuses on four successful education projects. We have scheduled another session in February for research and outreach programs.



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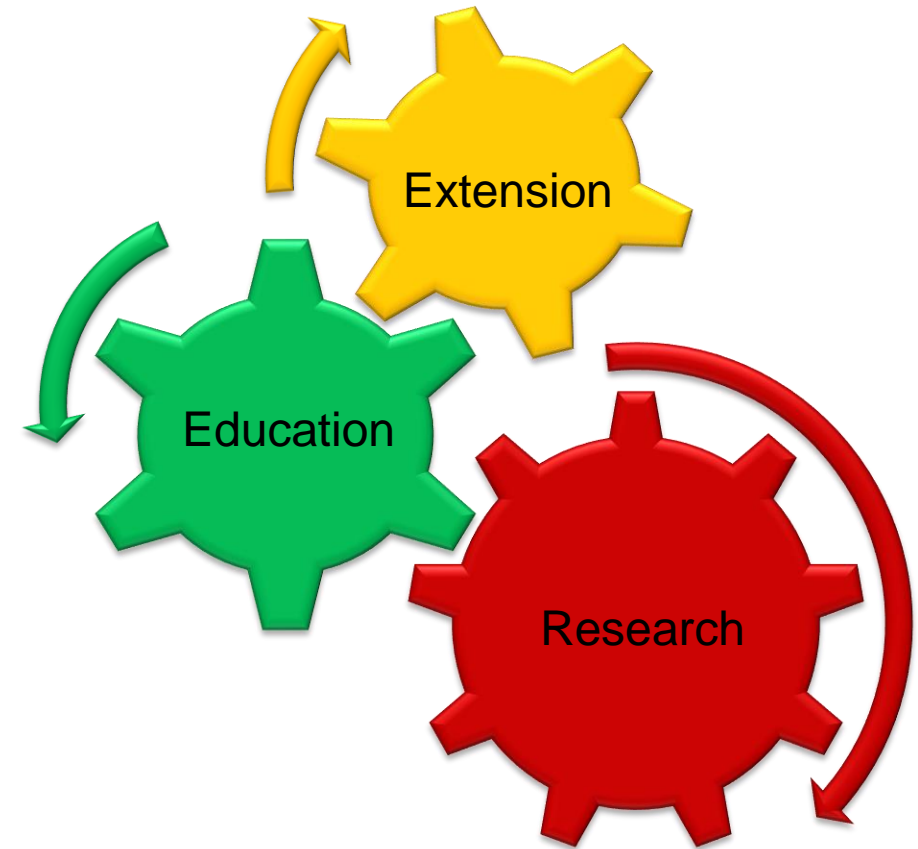
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## Poll

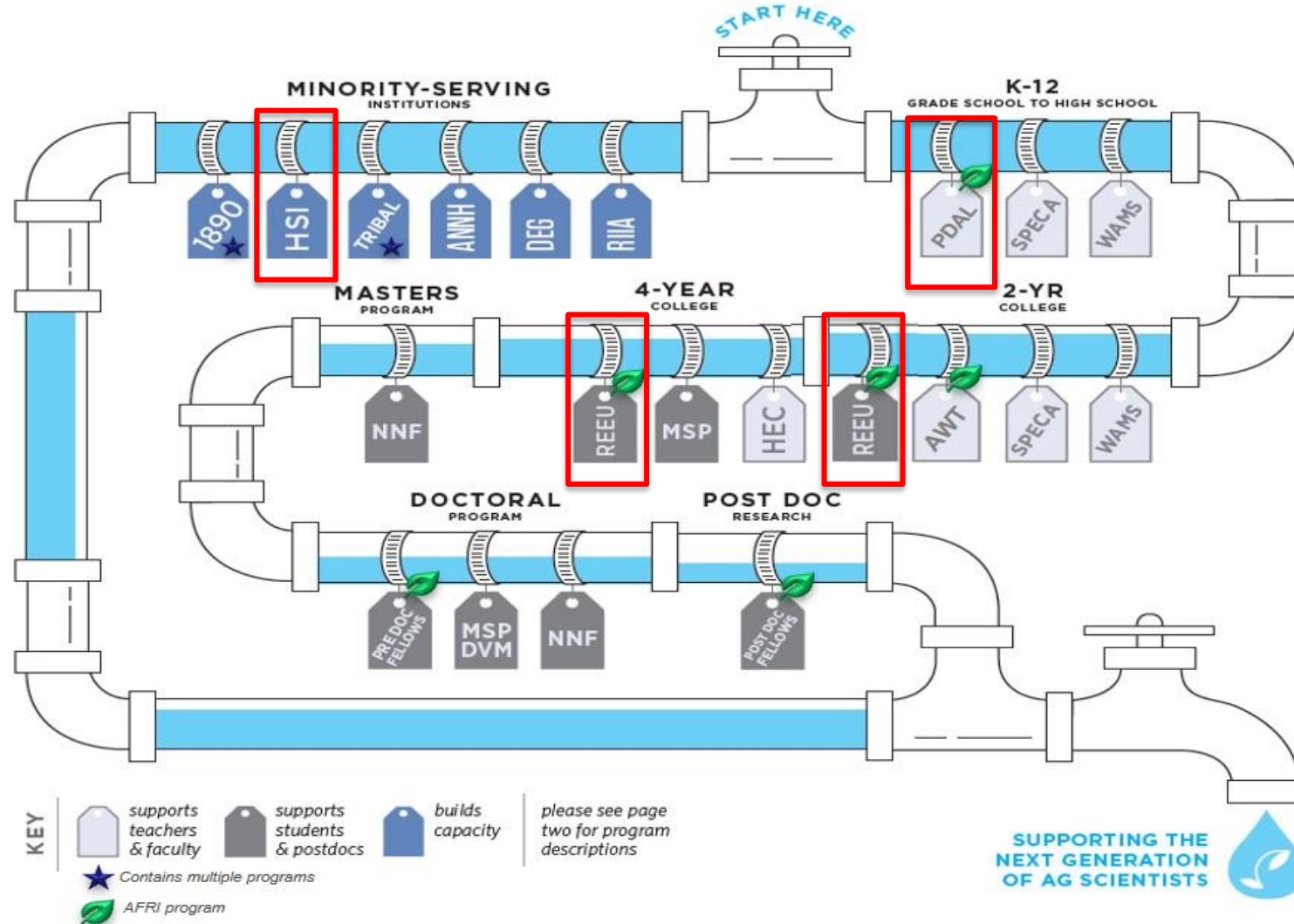
- Questions:
  - Would your institution be considered small or mid-sized (less than 17,500 students)?
  - Have you applied to a NIFA grants program? Please type which ones in the chat
  - Have you received a NIFA award?
  - If you haven't applied, what have been the main barriers?

# National Institute of Food and Agriculture

- FY 2020 USDA budget was \$153 billion with \$1.7 billion allocated to NIFA
- NIFA provides capacity grants to land-grant universities
- We provide competitive grants to support research, education and extension at various institutions
  - Land-grant universities, non-land-grants, Minority-Serving Institutions, and Community Colleges
  - Eligibility varies by program and is listed in each Request for Application



# NIFA's Education Portfolio



# Spotlight on Three Education Programs

- Showcase successful education projects with focus on grantee's experience:
  - Applying for grant program
  - Managing the project activities, funding and award requirements
  - Impacts on the organization, students, faculty/teachers and food and agricultural sciences
- Save the Date: February 9, 2021
  - Webinar to showcase successful research and integrated projects focused on:
    - NIFA requirements on environmental impacts, human subjects and animal use certification
    - Publications, presentation and stakeholders



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# Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) programs

**FY 2020 Total Program Funding: \$425 million**

- AFRI is NIFA's flagship competitive grants program
- Supports education, research, extension and integrated projects
- Has three RFA's each with multiple priority areas
  - Sustainable Agricultural Systems
  - Foundational and Applied Science Program
  - Education & Workforce Development



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# **AFRI Education and Workforce Development**

## **FY 2020 Total Program Funding = \$49 Million**

- **Program Goals:**
  - Enhancing Agricultural Literacy and Workforce Training (PDAL and AWT)
  - Developing Pathways (REEU)
  - Advancing Science (Fellowships)
- **Supports:**
  - Professional development for K-14 educators
  - Workforce training at community, junior, and technical colleges
  - Training of undergraduate students in research and extension
  - Fellowships for pre- and postdoctoral scholars

# Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU)

- Promotes research and extension learning experiences for undergraduates to develop skills to enable successful entry into the agricultural workforce
- Projects must provide students with opportunities to:
  - Obtain hands-on experience in research and extension
  - Receive strong mentoring experiences
  - Participate in projects and programs that deliver science-based knowledge to individual and communities to develop leadership skills
- Maximum award of \$400,000 for 4 years or \$500,000 for 5 years (FY 2020)



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# **REEU Award Spotlight: Monica Paulson Priebe and Matthew Swenson, Green River College**

**Project Title:** Experiential Learning to Accelerate Technical  
Education (ELATE)

Awarded in FY 2018

Monica Paulson Priebe, Natural Resources: [mpriebe@greenriver.edu](mailto:mpriebe@greenriver.edu)

Matthew Swenson, Advancement: [mswenson@greenriver.edu](mailto:mswenson@greenriver.edu)

# Green River College Natural Resources



- [Green River Natural Resources Program Information](#)
- Annually enrolls an average of 125 two-year (AAS) and 30 four-year (BAS) students, and produces 40 AAS and 18 BAS graduates annually
  - 2/3 are 24 years of age or older
  - 50% are low income
  - 30% are female
  - 27% are recently unemployed workers or military veterans
- Personnel: 4 full-time faculty, 5 adjunct faculty, 1 staff
- Emphases:
  - Applied/experiential learning
  - Industry guidance/engagement
  - Collaboration with other educators/community

# Why Pursue Grants (When It Isn't Your Job)?

- Relieve financial burden on low-income students
  - *Example:* NSF S-STEM grant (DUE #1565117)
- Expand student services and collaborative capacity
  - *Example:* USDA NIFA HEC grant (#2016-70003-24837)
- Improve instructional quality and student engagement
  - *Examples:* EPA EE grant (#01J26301)
  - Rose Foundation grant
  - **USDA NIFA REEU grant (#2019-67032-29078)**



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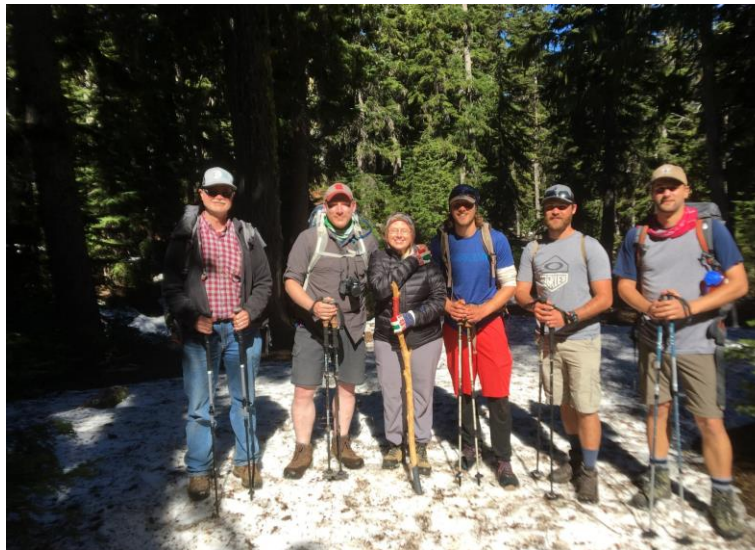


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# **REEU Award Spotlight: Anne Osano, Bowie State University**

**Project Title:** Bowie State University Agricultural Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (BSU-REEU) in Collaboration with Egerton University, Kenya

**Awarded in FY 2019**



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# The Bowie State University (BSU), Agricultural Research and Extension Experience for Undergraduates (BSU- REEU)

- Seeks to develop a **pathway for Minority undergraduate** students from Bowie State University and other minority serving Institutions, that **leads to careers in food and agricultural sectors** as well as graduate programs (AFRI). ( 5yrs)
- This is done through hands on **experiential learning** beyond the classroom by exposure to **international research and extension**.
- The international research and extension experience is to be done in collaboration with the **Agricultural University in Kenya, Egerton University** for a total of eight weeks in summer.
- The local research experience is to be done by **infusing research in the classroom** during the semester.

# Advice to Applicants

1. **Understand Program goals** and what program supports and respond appropriately.  
E.g. **Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU)**
2. Contact **program officer(s)** (National Program Leader) to ensure that your planned work aligns with what the program is authorized to fund.
3. Allow yourself **time** to plan and complete all of the requirements to submit in the packet
4. **Communicate** with Collaborators, Office of Sponsored Programs, University leadership etc.
5. Give the narrative to a colleague who is not in your area to get feedback
6. Draft a reasonable **budget** that is defensible and aligned closely to the planned work with a budget justification.



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# Advice to Applicants

- **Institutional challenges:** Teaching load; adequate quality time to seek external funding and/or write a competitive proposal can be a challenge; too much bureaucracy which can take up a lot of time
- **Any advice to aspiring applicants** – Writing grants is a lot of work, it needs time and careful planning, but it can be done.



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# Professional Development for Agricultural Literacy (PDAL) Program

- Increase the number of K-14 educational professionals trained in the food and agricultural sciences to improve training for the workforce of the future
- Develop skills necessary for integrating food and agricultural science into their classes
- Explore opportunities available in food and agricultural sciences career paths
- Develop mentorship with professional and business leaders and faculty
- Maximum award of \$300,000 (FY 2020)



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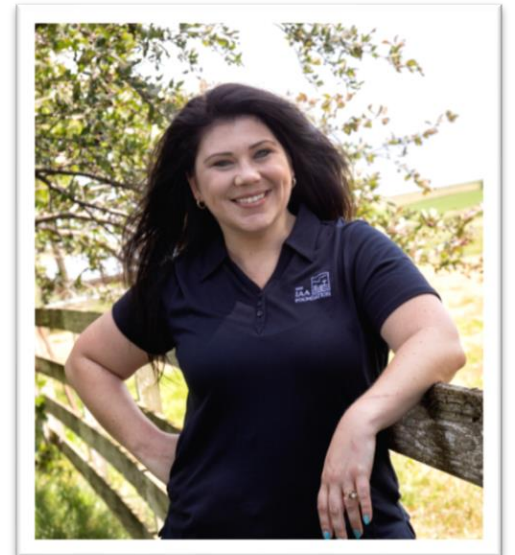
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# **PDAL Award Spotlight: Susan Moore, IAA Charitable Foundation**

**Project Title:** Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Agricultural  
Academy: Integrating Agri Science  
Awarded in FY 2019





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# Organization Snapshot



- Charitable Foundation
  - Staff of three
  - Raise \$800,000 annually for IL Ag in the Classroom Program of Work
  - Events, Major Gifts, Planned Gifts, and GRANTS
- Education Department
  - Staff of four
  - Develop curriculum & trainings
  - Support grassroots network of 81 County Ag Literacy Coordinators

Objective: Advance Ag Literacy through STEM lessons; Engage & empower teachers with content to successfully infuse into the classroom.



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# Successfully Funded Project

**Project Title:** Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom Agricultural Academy: Integrating Agri Science

**Duration of Project:** January 2020-October 2023

**Project Purpose:** Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) brings a proven and effective delivery model that gets objective and scientifically based agriculture content into the hands of teachers in every county throughout the state of Illinois. Training teachers is one effective method IAITC utilizes to ensure the student population in Illinois gains agricultural literacy.

**Implementation:** Twenty-five multiple day training sessions and field trips, known as Agricultural Academies, are conducted annually, and attended by approximately 500 educators, who will leave with increased knowledge and confidence to teach subjects in food and agricultural sciences as well as STEM integration.

Level 1 & 2 Classifications; Five Units of Work; Session Outlines; Detailed point system evaluation

**Budget:** Training stipends based per teacher: \$50 per teacher x 500= \$25,000/year X 4 years = \$100,000  
Materials & supplies: \$5,000/year x 4 years= \$20,000



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# Tales of a First Time Applicant

- Preparing to apply: *It's all in the details...*
- Writing to a new audience: *It's technical...*
- Setting yourself up for success: *Do what works! Realistic is GOOD.*
- When in doubt, ASK: *NIFA Staff are really helpful, really!!*



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# Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program

## FY 2020 Program Funding: \$11.2 Million

- Strengthens the capacity of HSIs to teach food and agricultural sciences
- Attracts and supports undergraduate and graduate students from underrepresented groups and prepare them for careers related to food, agricultural, and natural resources systems
- Supports curriculum development, professional improvement of faculty, student experiential learning, and investment in infrastructure, including libraries and scientific instrumentation.
- Eligibility: Institution with minimum of 25% undergraduate full-time Hispanic enrollment
- Awards range from \$50,000 to \$1 million

***FY 2021 Deadlines: Regular: January 26, 2021; Collaboration: January 27, 2021; Conference: January 28, 2021***



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# **HSI Award Spotlight: Savannah Rugg and Brandon Whatley, Austin Community College**

**Project Title: Opportunities in Agriculture (OiA)**

**Awarded in FY 2017**



# Project: Opportunities in Agriculture

Award Number: 2017-38422-27109



- Grant Awarded 2017
- Objectives:
  1. Agricultural Degree Program Development
  2. Agricultural Science Workforce Promotion
  3. Student Recruitment and Support
- Management of Grant
  - Data collector
  - Workforce & Transfer Degree Accreditation
  - Scholarship & Stipend Application Process
  - 14 New Agriculture Courses
  - Holiday Market & Highschool Recruitment Event
  - Partnering with local USDA Extension Agents



Savannah Rugg, Dept. Chair, Agricultural Sciences  
[savannah.rugg@austincc.edu](mailto:savannah.rugg@austincc.edu)

# Project: Opportunities in Agriculture

Award Number: 2017-38422-27109



- **Application Process and Initial Steps:**
  - Networking & Learning from Others
    - Other colleges, industry & community
  - Alignment of program goals to NIFA priorities
  - Identification of Educational Problems (Aim) and Project Impact
  - Project Justification
  - Innovation – How is the project innovative?
  - Cooperative Linkages





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## Upcoming Events

- December 15<sup>th</sup> webinars
  - WAMS from 12-1pm ET
  - SPECA from 3-4pm ET
- February 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm CT  
“Applying to NIFA Competitive Research and Integrated Programs as Small and Mid-sized Institutions”
- Check out the NIFA Events Calendar for upcoming deadlines, meetings, and webinars:  
<https://nifa.usda.gov/calendar>

## Resources

- Funding opportunities: <https://nifa.usda.gov/grant-search>
- Competitive Grants Flowchart: [https://nifa.usda.gov/competitive-grants?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](https://nifa.usda.gov/competitive-grants?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)
- NIFA Grant Resources: <https://nifa.usda.gov/grant-training>
- A Guide for Preparation and Submission of NIFA Applications via Grants.gov:  
<https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/instructions/PKG00249520-instructions.pdf>
- Info on awarded grants: <https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/Welcome.html>
- COVID-19 information for NIFA stakeholders and applicants:  
<https://nifa.usda.gov/coronavirus>



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# THANK YOU



Kellyann Jones-Jamtgaard, Ph.D.  
Program Specialist  
[kellyann.jonesjamtgaard@usda.gov](mailto:kellyann.jonesjamtgaard@usda.gov)

Questions about applying for a specific program:  
Contact staff listed in the RFA (Appendix I)