Subject: Non-land-grant College of Agriculture Designation Request and Requirements

Thank you for considering applying for Non-land-grant College of Agriculture (NLGCA) designation with the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Please note that all institutions designated as NLGCA prior to December 21, 2018, must reapply for designation and meet the new criteria for NLGCA designation per the 2018 Farm Bill. This new definition no longer excludes Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges/universities and McIntire-Stennis colleges/universities.

When applying for NLGCA designation with NIFA, please include the following information in an official memo of the college/university requesting the designation: 1) the name of the college/university, 2) the name of the official requesting NLGCA designation, 3) an email address and phone number to contact the requesting official, and 4) a link to the college/university website to determine eligibility for NLGCA designation.

The memo should list the majors or degree granting programs affiliated with one or more (up to five) of the following relevant food, agricultural or natural resource areas of study* offered at your institution and provide a webpage reference to each program:

- Agricultural and domestic animal services
- Agricultural and Extension education services
- Agricultural and food products processing
- Agricultural business and management
- Agricultural communication or agricultural journalism
- Agricultural economics
- Agricultural engineering
- Agricultural mechanization
- Agricultural production operations
- Agricultural public services
- Agriculture
- Animal sciences
- Applied horticulture or horticulture operations
- Aquaculture
- Equestrian/Equine Studies
- Floriculture or floristry operations and management
- Food science
- Forest sciences and biology
- Forestry
- Greenhouse operations and management
- International agriculture
- Natural resource economics
- Natural resources management and policy
- Natural resources or conservation
- Ornamental horticulture
- Plant nursery operations and management
- Plant sciences
- Range science and management
- Soil sciences
- Turf and turfgrass management
- Urban forestry
- Wood science and wood products or pulp or paper technology

*For elaborated definitions for these Areas of Study, please see the Department of Education's Classification of Instructional Program website (link is external).

The memo should come from an Authorized Representative and include the statement, “By submitting this request, I certify that I have the authority to make this request on behalf of my institution.”

Within 30 days of receiving this memo, NIFA will provide the Administrative Point of Contact specified on the memo with a designation or a response indicating why designation is being approved or denied. If you have questions about this designation, please contact Robert Nicholas of NIFA’s Office of Grants and Financial Management at nlgca.status@usda.gov.

Note: For more information on changes to the NLGCA designation process, please see the Federal Register Notice (link is external) on this topic. Land-grant Institutions are not eligible to receive this designation. NLGCA designation can no longer be used to exempt an institution from a matching requirement for any of NIFA's grant programs.