NIFA is committed to developing an agricultural science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce representative of current and projected demographics in America. A diversified workforce is critical for developing the innovations that will drive the continued success of the agricultural sector and U.S. economy while serving respective communities in culturally-relevant ways. NIFA supports this future workforce through specialized partnerships and programs that build institutional capacity, facilitate access to higher education, and provide experiential learning opportunities in the community.

Diversifying the Next Generation of Agricultural STEM Leaders

NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension and catalyzes transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges. www.nifa.usda.gov

STEM Demographic Gaps

The demographics of degree holders in the U.S. agricultural science workforce do not match the demographics of the U.S. population.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>American Indian or Alaskan Native</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>Black or African American</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Opening Doors to Opportunities

NIFA increases diversity within agricultural STEM through partnerships and programs that support:

- Institutions in insular areas located in U.S. territories
- 1862 land-grant universities
- 1890 land-grant universities, which represent a portion of America’s historically black colleges and universities
- Alaska Native- and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions (ANNH), with enrollment comprising at least 20% Alaska Native students and 10% Native Hawaiian students, respectively

A small number of the HSI, ANNH, and insular areas institutions are also land-grant universities.

DID YOU KNOW?

“The HSI Education Grants Program helped me see opportunities beyond the boundaries of south Texas. The program opened a path that helped me further develop my scientific expertise in plant pathology as well as interest in STEM education and equity. Without the financial support and mentors that I had, I would not be where I am today.”

Dr. Carlos Ortiz
2005-2007 HSI Education Grant project participant, Texas A&M University-Kingsville

NIFA’s programs foster community vitality and family well-being through extension and community partnerships.

Congressional funding
Administration of federal funds by NIFA
Universities use federal plus state and local funds to manage community programs
University-based professionals translate knowledge to meet the unique needs of communities across America

Extension professionals are integrated within more than 3,000 counties and county equivalents across all U.S. states, districts, and territories. These professionals translate science into opportunities to help improve people’s lives.

*FOOTNOTE: These data are based on the 152 colleges and universities with 100% response rates to the Food and Agricultural Education Information System Survey. The 152 colleges and universities include 65 public non-land-grant non-HSIs, 52 1862 land-grants, 18 non-land-grant HSIs, 12 1890 land-grants, 3 private institutions, and 2 institutions in insular areas. The Food and Agricultural Education Information System is funded by NIFA.


What’s It Worth? The Economic Value of College Majors. Cew.georgetown.edu

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