



# Annual Training Conference and Career Expo

**MANRRS: ASPIRE TO INSPIRE**

**MARCH 20-24, 2024**

Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile | Chicago, IL

## Preliminary Program and Registration Guide



Presented in partnership with:



[www.manrrs.org](http://www.manrrs.org)

MANRRS wishes to thank the following organizations that have partnered with us and have significantly contributed to the successful planning of the 38th Annual Training Conference and Career Expo.



## FCAE

Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education (FCAE) Local Program Support (LPS) is supported with funds from the Agricultural Education line item within the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) budget. Project staff includes a coordinator, five district program advisors, and a fiscal manager charged with improving education in and about agriculture and related agricultural industries, pre-kindergarten through adult levels. FCAE began operations with staffing on April 17, 1989, addressing the aims of Public Act 84-1452 involving the implementation of identified goals for improving education in and about Agriculture in Illinois.

[www.ilaged.org/FCAE](http://www.ilaged.org/FCAE)



## Illinois Agri-Food Alliance

The Illinois Agri-Food Alliance (ILAFA) is an independent, multi-stakeholder collaborative network working to harness the strengths of Illinois' food and agriculture sector. As a neutral third-party convener and connector, the Illinois Agri-Food Alliance is building a platform for non-partisan collaboration that convenes government, NGOs, and industry members. Via a collaborative network, ILAFA partners join forces to align strategic priorities, spark innovation, improve coordination, catalyze new collaborations, increase visibility, and build trust. In short, ILAFA is creating the enabling environment to ensure Illinois' food and agriculture sector continues to be a driver of the state's economy while addressing important environmental and societal challenges.

[www.ilagrifood.org](http://www.ilagrifood.org)



## John Deere

"We Run So Life Can Leap Forward" we conduct business essential to life. Running for the people who trust us and the planet that sustains us, we create intelligent connected machines that enable lives to leap forward. For 185 years John Deere has led the way in developing innovative solutions to help our customers become more productive. We conduct business essential to life in ways that are more sustainable for all.

[www.deere.com/en/our-company/john-deere-careers](http://www.deere.com/en/our-company/john-deere-careers)



## Syngenta

Syngenta is a global, science-based agtech company made up of CropProtection and Seeds business units with more than 30,000 employees in 90 countries. Syngenta innovates with world-class science to protect crops and improve seeds. Our two core businesses support farmers with technologies, knowledge and services so they can sustainably provide the world with better food, feed, fibre, and fuel.

[www.syngenta.com/en/company](http://www.syngenta.com/en/company)



## University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is charged by our state to enhance the lives of citizens in Illinois, across the nation and around the world through our leadership in learning, discovery, engagement and economic development. Since its founding in 1867, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has earned a reputation as a world-class leader in research, teaching, and public engagement. Each year we welcome more than 32,000 undergraduate students across our nine undergraduate divisions – offering nearly 5,000 courses in more than 150 fields of study.

[www.uiuc.edu](http://www.uiuc.edu)

Thank You to our National Partners for helping us make it to this wonderful milestone! MANRRS would like to thank our current partnering organizations for their support of the 38th Annual Training Conference and Career Expo.

## TITANIUM PLUS LEVEL (\$250,000+)

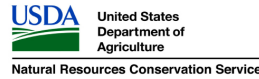


JOHN DEERE

## TITANIUM LEVEL (\$100,000+)



LAND O'LAKES, INC.



## DIAMOND LEVEL (\$75,000+)



## PLATINUM LEVEL (\$50,000+)



## GOLD LEVEL (\$25,000+)



NATIONAL PARTNERS

Sponsorship as of December 2023

## MANRRS Conferences Then & Now...

- 1986 Progressive Agriculture in the Eighties
- 1987 Linkages: Uniting to Face the Challenges of the Future
- 1988 Agricultural Sciences: The Place to Be
- 1989 Graduate Education: Your Key to a Secure Future
- 1990 Preparing for Our Future and Building on Our Past
- 1991 Diversity: The Key to Excellence
- 1992 The Changing Face of Agriculture
- 1993 Facing the Challenges of Agriculture Now and in the 21st Century
- 1994 MANRRS: A Mosaic in the Making
- 1995 MANRRS 2000 - A Global Vision
- 1996 Networking in the Information Age  
Empowerment for the Future
- 1998 Science and Information Technology for Tomorrow
- 1999 MANRRS: A Diversity of Cultures, A Diversity of Opportunities
- 2000 MANRRS 2000: Making Today's Dreamers Tomorrow's Leaders
- 2001 MANRRS in the Millennium – Remembering Our Past and Embracing Our Future
- 2002 Developing One Nation: Bringing Together Culture, Diversity and Technology
- 2003 MANRRS – Pursuing Excellence in Leadership, Scholarship, and Service
- 2004 Building on the Past, Embracing the Present and Shaping the Future
- 2005 Encouraging Innovation, Promoting Diversity, Achieving Excellence
- 2006 MANRRS: The Signature of Success
- 2007 MANRRS: Innovation, Exploration and Discovery
- 2008 MANRRS: Cultivating Minds for Tomorrow's Leadership
- 2009 MANRRS: Expanding Our Horizons, Embracing the Challenge, and Preparing for the Future
- 2010 MANRRS: 25 Years of History, Excellence and Opportunities...The Best is Yet to Come!
- 2011 MANRRS: Cultivating a Generation of Excellence
- 2012 MANRRS: Planting the Seeds for Global Success
- 2013 MANRRS: Turning Vision into Action
- 2014 Embracing Today's Challenges to Embark on Tomorrow's Opportunities
- 2015 Thirty Years of Triumph: Branching Out and Excelling to Greater Heights
- 2016 Growing the Next Generation of Agricultural Leaders
- 2017 Sculpting Minds, Nurturing Hearts, and Creating Diverse Leaders
- 2018 MANRRS: Preparing our Future, Empowering our Present, and Honoring our Past
- 2019 MANRRS: Innovate to Elevate
- 2020 This is Impact
- 2021 MANRRS: Reclaiming Our Time, Territory, and Triumph!
- 2022 MANRRS: Broadening Horizons and Changing the Narrative
- 2023 MANRRS: Collaborate. Cultivate. Motivate.

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the MANRRS 38th Annual Training Conference and Career Expo. In what has already been a record year, this year's conference is packed with opportunities for professional development, career advancement, scholarship, and fellowship. This year, our theme has been "Aspire to Inspire." This theme is so appropriate for our organization because MANRRS was born out of the aspirations and inspirations of students who wanted to see themselves represented within, and throughout the agricultural, natural resource, and related science arenas. Since then, and through nearly four decades of intentional efforts, MANRRS has earned its place as the premier organization for recruitment, cultivation, and fellowship for underrepresented minorities in this space. In addition, MANRRS continues to provide a venue for those who support access and opportunities to convene and partner towards this common goal.

This year has been nothing short of amazing as we continue to witness the exponential growth and increasing impact of the MANRRS organization. We had our largest Regional Cluster season ever with over 1,000 attendees and what a way to kick off the year. Witnessing the preparedness of the students, the enthusiasm of our partners, and the dedication of our advisors affirms the power and passion that this organization evokes in all our members. This is the epitome of "Aspire to Inspire". Throughout the year, MANRRS has been invited and represented in spaces we've never had access to before which is a testament to the credibility that MANRRS has earned. We are now at the table participating in high-level, global conversations advocating for a diverse, sustainable future in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. But we're not just talking, because actions speak louder than words. To actively fuel this future, we've increased the number of MANRRS programs, partnerships, scholarships, and leadership opportunities available to our students and professionals to prepare our entire pipeline as participants and innovators in the value chain.

None of these efforts, nor our continued growth would be possible without remarkable partners, a talented Executive Committee, and a top notch National Office team dedicated to the MANRRS mission through and through. An increase in individual donations, in-kind support, and sustaining commitments have allowed us to plan and deliver a top notch and action-packed conference program. As you attend or facilitate workshops, participate, or judge competitions, and network with fellow MANRRS professionals in industry, academia, and government continue to "Aspire to inspire" in all your efforts. We look forward to hosting you for a dynamic conference and continuing our positive impact on the future of ag, natural resources, and related sciences because, not just during conference, but every day I am MANRRS, YOU are MANRRS, WE ARE MANRRS!



Dr. Derris D. Burnett  
National President, 2023-2024

## 2023-2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Dr. Derris Burnett  
President



Stephon Fitzpatrick  
President-Elect



Dr. Marcus Bernard  
Past President



Zachary Brown  
Secretary



Timmeron D. Timmons  
Treasurer



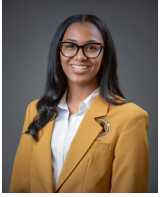
Dallas Cooks  
Parliamentarian



Olivia Holliman  
UG President



Emmanuel Wallace  
GR President



Jahqethea Johnson  
Past GR President



Mikiyah Baldwin  
UG Parliamentarian



Maia Woodard  
GR Parliamentarian



Ashley Fennell  
Region I UG VP



Keia Jones  
Region I GR VP



Janaia Madden  
Region II UG VP



Shonna Smith  
Region II GR VP



Kaylin Hughes  
Region III UG VP



Brian Cornish  
Region III GR VP



Marquez Wortham  
Region IV UG VP



Brytana Gamy  
Region IV GR VP



Drew Parker  
Region V UG VP



Kayla Braggs  
Region V GR VP



Victoria Flores Parra  
Region VI UG VP



Tahira Jones  
Region VI GR VP

## NATIONAL STAFF



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COO



Ashantae Smith  
Business Manager



Dr. Antoine Alston  
NCAT



Dr. Marcus Bernard  
KY State University



Alice Bertholin Rice  
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Karis Gutter  
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Randy Irving  
Nutrien



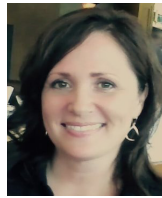
Jahqethea Johnson  
UNL



Dwane Matthews  
Program Manager



Ian Smith  
Junior MANRRS  
Coordinator



Ann McLay Taylor  
Land O'Lakes



Dr. Pamala Morris  
Purdue



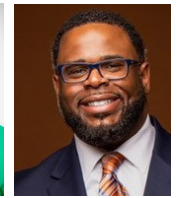
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Zoetis



Rob Stewart  
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Cynthia Stokely  
Bayer



Courtney White  
BASF  
Advisory Board  
Chair



Darren Armstrong  
Gov't Relations  
Associate



Briyanna Tiafoe  
Marketing  
Associate

## ADVISORY BOARD

PAST CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



## 2024 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

As we prepare for the MANRRS 38th Annual Training Conference and Career Expo, the 2024 Conference Planning Team and Region V invite you to join us in this celebratory event in Chicago, IL. Awaiting you are opportunities to network, attend workshops, share ideas, and visit the Career Expo where you will explore various employment opportunities with many world-renowned, agricultural industry leaders, colleges and universities, and federal and state agencies.

We encourage your participation and involvement in this great Society and a great conference. We look forward to seeing you, as we continue to demonstrate INSPIRATION in the fields of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences for the 21st century and beyond.

### Conference Planning Committee Team Leaders

MANRRS National Office

Brandon Bell, Syngenta

Dresden Goldberg, Syngenta

Rhonda Johnson, John Deere

Darlene McCoy, John Deere

Nicole Mullen John Deere

Diana Rodriguez, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Jon Sellenrick, Syngenta

Tyler Strom, Illinois Agri-Food Alliance

Jennifer Waters, FCAE

Schlanda Watson, John Deere

Tyler Young, Syngenta

## AN OVERVIEW OF MANRRS HISTORY

In the early 1980s, a concerned minority student, Dave Weatherspoon, recognized the need for a support group for minority students in agricultural programs at Michigan State University (MSU). With the help and guidance of a sensitive college advisor, Eunice Foster, he set out to form such a group on his campus. From these efforts, the Minority Agriculture and Natural Resources Association (MANRA), a registered student organization in the College of Agriculture at MSU, was founded in the spring of 1982. News of MANRA reached a staff person whose responsibilities included promoting the participation of minority students in agricultural sciences at The Pennsylvania State University (PSU). In 1985, after a series of communications between institutions, representatives of MANRA and their faculty mentor visited PSU to help form an organization for minority students in its College of Agriculture. Out of this meeting, Minorities in Agriculture (MIA) was formed by the Penn State group. Dr. William Henson served as the first advisor for this group at Penn State.

In April 1986, MANRA and MIA jointly sponsored “The First Annual Conference of Minority Students in Agriculture and Natural Resources” at MSU. A primary focus of the conference was the problem of how to organize student disciplinary interest groups on university campuses. Over 40 students and faculty from six colleges participated. The second conference, also sponsored jointly by MANRA and MIA, was held, in April 1987, at PSU. More than 60 people from 11 colleges, six government organizations, and five private organizations participated. The third conference was held at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, in April 1988. This was a pivotal meeting for the formation of MANRRS. Student and faculty representatives from all 1862 and 1890 land grant colleges and universities, including Tuskegee University, were invited. Representatives from interested public and private agencies were also invited to participate.

## Online Registration

To register online for the MANRRS 2024 conference, go to [www.manrrs.org/national-conference](http://www.manrrs.org/national-conference). Follow the links to complete the online registration.

Complete the online registration with your payment by **December 31, 2023** and save on registration fees. **All payments must be paid in full by March 1, 2024.**

A full conference registration includes the following:

- Entry to all Workshop Sessions and General Sessions (Thu., Fri., & Sat.)
- Entry to the Career Expo (Friday)
- **The following meals:**
  - **Thu: Reception**
  - **Fri: Breakfast; Box Lunch**
  - **Sat: Brunch and Gala Dinner.**
- Conference Packet with giveaway items

**The Diversity Summit is NOT INCLUDED with your conference registration fee and is a separate, add-on event.**

Each participant will receive a Registration Packet containing a MANRRS name badge. Attendees must be registered participants to attend conference activities. Admission to all activities will require your name badge.

## Payment Policy

**All registration fees must be received in the National Office and paid in full by March 1, 2024.** Acceptable forms of payment include checks, invoice requests for POs, and credit cards. All payments should be made payable to MANRRS.

**Mail payment to:**  
**Attn: 2024 MANRRS Conference**  
**P.O. Box 767726, Roswell, GA 30076**

Questions, email - [billing@manrrs.org](mailto:billing@manrrs.org)

All conference cancellations must be received in writing by February 15, 2024, and directed to [MANRRS@ameetingplace.com](mailto:MANRRS@ameetingplace.com). **Registrations may be transferred to another participant of the same registration type by March 1, 2024.** To transfer your registration, please modify the existing registration and update with the new registrant's information.

**No refunds will be provided for cancellations.** If you have a speaking/program role at the Conference, we ask that you notify us at your earliest convenience so that a replacement can be secured.

## Badges and Tickets

Your name badge is your ticket into the conference. You will receive your conference badge when you check-in at the MANRRS Conference Registration Desk. Name badges must be worn at all times. Meal tickets are provided for the Career Expo Box Lunch. Special tickets are provided to attendees with dietary restrictions.



## Individuals with Special Needs

MANRRS encourages the full participation of individuals with special needs or disabilities. The Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile is handicap accessible. Please indicate on the registration form if you need special assistance, and the Conference Planner will contact you.

## Conference Shirts

Attendees may pick up their conference shirt during registration check-in. Shirt sizes are included on the registration form. Shirts ARE included in conference registration. **Shirt sizes cannot be guaranteed.** No shirts will be ordered after March 1, 2024. Shirt sizes are gender neutral.

## People Power

Volunteers are an intricate part of the conference success. Numerous volunteers are needed to assist with a variety of tasks during the conference. A People Power Coordinator will arrange and coordinate the work of volunteers, our "People Power" program. Register to volunteer as People Power in your conference registration to help assist with a variety of tasks during the conference. Additional details will be provided prior to the conference.

## Photo/Video Disclaimer

All photographs and videos sent to or taken by MANRRS become the property of the National Society. By completing this registration, you understand that you are giving all rights and titles in and to all photographs and videos taken to the National Society for MANRRS. As owners of the photographs and videos, MANRRS will have all rights to use and publish the photographs/videos, and no compensation is made or owed



for use of the photographs/videos. Photographs/videos will not be given or sold to any other company or individual.

## Conference Registration Cancellation Policy

Registrations will NOT be processed or space assigned without the required payment. All registrations must be accompanied by full payment.

Checks should be made payable to: **MANRRS**, and mailed to: **ATTN: MANRRS38, P.O. Box 767726, Roswell, GA 30076**. Receipt of payment does not oblige MANRRS to accept a contract as binding. MANRRS retains the option of returning funds.

Cancellations of registration must be directed to: [MANRRS@ameetingplace.com](mailto:MANRRS@ameetingplace.com) by **February 15, 2024**. Refunds will not be provided. In case of fire or any other causes beyond the control of MANRRS that prevent holding the show, this contract will not be binding.

## Liability

By attending the MANRRS Training Conference and Career Expo, all participants agree to assume certain inherent risks, which accompany attendance at such events. Participants are expected to comply with the travel policies of the entity(ies) that they represent. This may include completion of release forms, assumption of risk forms, and other required paperwork. All participants accept personal responsibility and liability for their actions while at the conference site in the Chicago area, and while traveling

to and from the conference site. The MANRRS organization may not be held liable for individual acts of negligence or unlawful activity on the part of conference participants. The MANRRS organization may be held liable only for incidents in the case of gross negligence on the part of its agents. All MANRRS conference participants are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner during the conference.

**NOTE:** Chapter Advisors are requested to help ensure that their students represent their institutions professionally and that they adhere to the expectations of conference attendance.

## Covid Policy

If you test positive for COVID-19 within seven (7) days of the conference start date (by March 13th), we will cancel your conference registration and you will receive a 50% refund. A positive test result must be provided. **Submit request [here](#).**



## 2024 REGISTRATION COSTS

MEMBER	Early Bird By Dec. 31	Regular By Jan. 31	Late By Feb. 28	On-Site Fees Starting Mar. 1
Junior MANRRS	\$325	\$375	\$425	\$475
Chapter Advisor/Chaperone	\$500	\$550	\$625	\$675
Collegiate	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$550
Professional	\$600	\$650	\$725	\$775
Local Collegiate One-Day (Fri. only)	\$175	\$200	\$225	\$300
Professional One-Day (Fri. only)	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400
<b>NON-MEMBER</b>				
Collegiate Non-Member	\$500	\$550	\$600	\$650
Professional Non-Member	\$750	\$800	\$850	\$900
Local Collegiate One-Day (Fri. only)	\$175	\$200	\$225	\$300
Professional One-Day (Fri. only)	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400

## Online Conference Registration is REQUIRED

Please visit [www.manrrs.org/national-conference](http://www.manrrs.org/national-conference) for complete details. Registration questions can be directed to:

A Meeting Company  
 Phone: (856) 429-8305  
 E-mail: [MANRRS@ameetingplace.com](mailto:MANRRS@ameetingplace.com)



## Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile

Reserve your Guest Room Early.  
This Event will Sell Out!

To reserve a hotel room, guests must first register for the national conference. A link to reserve the hotel room will be provided with the registration confirmation email.

**Total with tax: \$216.02 per night**

Make your reservations EARLY! The group rate and rooms will be available until the MANRRS Room Block is full or by **February 19, 2024**, whichever occurs first.

Reservations may be made, modified, or canceled by individuals on-line.

**ALL ROOMS** must be secured with a credit card. Cancellations made after February 19th, will incur a non-refundable, one night's deposit charge of \$216.02.

### Chicago Marriott Downtown

540 Michigan Avenue

Chicago, IL 60611

Phone: (312) 836-0100

MANRRS Group Rate: \$184.00 + tax

(current tax 17.4%)

Internet: Complimentary in sleeping  
rooms

(For Marriott Bonvoy Members. Join Anytime.)

Check-In: 3:00 PM | Check-Out: 11:00 AM

### Hotel Location & Nearby Attractions

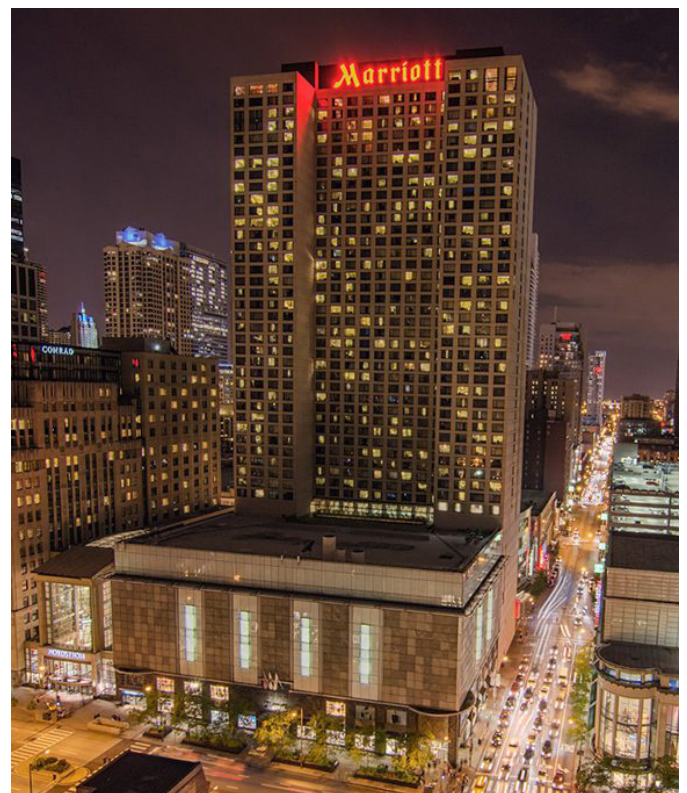
Welcome to Chicago's famed Magnificent Mile. The hotel's front door invites guests to experience some of the world's best shopping, while outside the backdoor sits the city's River North neighborhood - the hub of dining, entertainment, and nightlife with over 170 restaurants and 138 bars within an 8-block radius of the property. Since opening in 1978, the Magnificent Mile Marriott has celebrated Chicago's rich culture and always modern style. Steps away from iconic attractions, flagship shopping and the historical landmarks the city is famous for, feel at home while you experience Chicago. The 1,200 spacious guest rooms and suites feature floor-to-ceiling windows with views of Lake Michigan or the skyline, modern furnishings and entertainment. The Great Room at the Magnificent Mile hotel invites both leisure and business travelers to connect over hand-crafted cocktails at Reviver.

### Restaurants, Bars, Lounge & Dining Options

With an emphasis on fresh, seasonal and creative dishes, the culinary team pursues excellence in flavor, creativity, sustainability and service. Enjoy a variety of artisanal offerings from local merchants and quick-service meals packaged on-property at Rush Street Pantry. Sip a delicious cocktail while sampling the elevated street food at Reviver and savor locally-sourced classic Chicago dishes from Harvest - all while experiencing wonderful hospitality.

### Hotel Accommodations and Guest Rooms

Enjoy floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the bustling street of the Magnificent Mile. Inside your room, the art features nods to classic Chicago architecture and public transportation famously known as "The L."



## GETTING TO CHICAGO

Chicago, on Lake Michigan in Illinois, is among the largest cities in the U.S. Famed for its bold architecture, it has a skyline punctuated by skyscrapers such as the iconic John Hancock Center, 1,451-ft. Willis Tower (formerly the Sears Tower) and the neo-Gothic Tribune Tower. The city is also renowned for its museums, including the Art Institute of Chicago with its noted Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works. For more information on this, go to:

[www.choosechicago.com](http://www.choosechicago.com)

### Travel by Air

#### Delta Airline Discount Information

Receive 10% off round-trip domestic flights.

Enter Meeting Event Code: **NM2Z7**

#### Chicago O'Hare International Airport

Multi-award-winning, environmentally conscious O'Hare (ORD) is one of the largest airports in the world. It lies just 16 miles from downtown Chicago and boasts four terminals — three domestic (Terminals 1, 2 and 3) and one international (Terminal 5).

#### Chicago Midway International Airport

Midway (MDW) is the nation's premier point-to-point airport, offering value-oriented leisure and business travel to over 60 destinations. It's located only 11 miles from downtown Chicago.

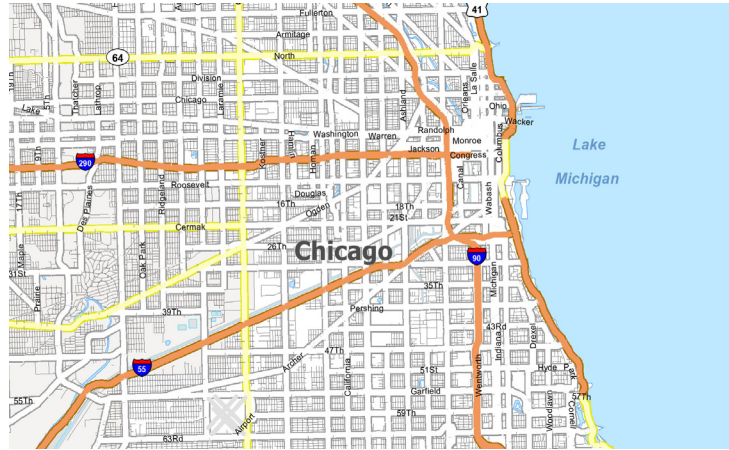
#### Gary/Chicago International Airport

A member of the Chicago Department of Aviation, Gary/Chicago International Airport (GYI) is a full-service airport used for private aviation. Located just 25 miles from downtown Chicago, it's a convenient location for corporate and weekend flyers entering the Chicago metropolitan region.

#### Ground Transportation Options:

For ground transportation assistance upon arrival in Chicago, please go directly to the Ground Transportation located on the outside Baggage Claim.

- Rideshare Services: Uber/Lyft
- Taxi Services
- The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Blue Line 'L' Train, which runs 24/7, connects directly to O'Hare
- The CTA Orange Line 'L' Train connects directly to Midway



TRAVEL TO CHICAGO

## JESSE THOMPSON CHAPTER ADVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award recognizes the Advisor that has gone over and beyond to support their chapter members and endeavors.

**Deadline for Submission is January 21, 2024**

**SUBMIT TO:** [info.manrrs.org/manrrs-aoya](http://info.manrrs.org/manrrs-aoya)

The Nomination Package must include:

- Completed nomination form and cover sheet.
- Nominee's 1-2 page resume.
- Two (2) letters of recommendation from past or present mentees of the nominee. Letters should describe the positive impact the nominee had on the mentee.
- One to two (1-2) page summary detailing the impact the nominee has had on the chapter growth, leadership, professional, and career training of past and present MANRRS members and why the nominee is deserving of the award.

**NOTE:** The MANRRS Advisor must have served in this position for at least two years. The Nominator and the two other persons writing the letters of reference must be current or past MANRRS members. Self-nominations and nominations for members, posthumously, will not be accepted. The Nominator, the primary, and secondary mentees must be three different individuals.

## WILLIAM HENSON MANRRS LEGEND AWARD

The MANRRS Legend Award was created in 2007 to honor individuals who have made extraordinary strides in the name of MANRRS. This person should be a continuous servant of the organization, helping to further the goals and the objectives of the society. Past winners include the late Dr. William Henson (2007), Dr. Eunice Foster (2008), Dr. Jesse Thompson, Jr. (2009), Dr. Dave Weatherspoon (2010), Dr. Charles Magee (2011), Tina Terrell (2012), Dr. Carlos Gonzalez (2013), Dr. Curtis White (2015), Dr. Zelia Wiley (2017), Carl Butler (2019), and Dr. Quentin Tyler (2022).

**Deadline for Submission is February 15, 2024**

**SUBMIT TO:** [info.manrrs.org/manrrs-legend](http://info.manrrs.org/manrrs-legend)

### Criteria

- Individual should be an active member of MANRRS.
- Professional member of the organization for a minimum of 15 years.
- Participated on at least one MANRRS committee in the last five years.

### Guidelines

- The individual cannot nominate themselves to receive the award.
- The nominating person should write a one-page essay on why the person should receive the award and include the individual's accomplishments within the National Society.
- The individual will be chosen by the Executive Committee via majority vote.
- This information must be submitted to the MANRRS National Office via the MANRRS website.

### Recognition

The individual will be highlighted in the Final Conference Program with a one-page layout that includes a color photo, brief biography and a list of MANRRS Accomplishments.

The individual will be formally recognized at the Gala Dinner on Saturday evening, March 23rd, with an award as well as provide brief remarks to the attendees.



## DRESS CODE

### What to Bring

Professional business attire is expected throughout the conference with the exception of the late night social activities, when casual attire is acceptable. We strongly encourage students and professionals to wear professional attire during the conference. Remember, you only get one chance to make a first impression! The dress code and accepted attire is listed below. **We will be sending out supplemental information prior to the conference on appropriate attire for attendees.**



## RECOMMENDED ATTIRE

### Wednesday/Thursday/Sunday

Travel Days - Casual Dress

### Wednesday, March 20

*Diversity Summit*

**Business Casual or Professional Attire:** Slacks (Dockers, Khakis), or Company Shirts are acceptable. Suit (pants or skirt) or dress, sport coat, dress slacks, and appropriate dress shoes.

### Thursday, March 21

*Opening General Session, Contests, and President's Reception: Roaring 20's (theme)*

**Business Casual:** Slacks (Dockers, Khakis), No Jeans, Chapter, Organization, or University Shirts are acceptable.

### Friday, March 22

*General Session, Career Expo, Meetings, Workshops, and Contests:*

**Professional Attire:** Suit (pants or skirt) or dress, sport coat, tie, dress slacks, and appropriate dress shoes.

### Saturday, March 23

*Meals, Business Meetings, Workshops*

**Business Casual:** Slacks, Dockers, Khakis, and School Polo Shirts are acceptable

**Black Tie Gala Dinner:** Formal Attire or Professional Attire

### Friday/Saturday evening

*Social Events & Evening Dance*

**Casual Dress:** Appropriate casual attire



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

# WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM Advisory Board Meeting  
 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM Registration Opens  
 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM Diversity Summit – Reception and Panel Discussion\*

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

6:00 PM - 8:30 PM  
 8:30 PM–12:00 AM  
 8:30 PM - 12:00 AM

Welcome to Chicago - Explore On Your Own  
 Past Presidents' Roundtable Dinner\* - *special invite-only*  
 Graduate Student Social  
 Student Talent Show  
 Professional Hospitality: Chicago Nights

# THURSDAY, MARCH 21

7:30 AM - 12:00 PM Diversity Summit  
 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Animal Health and Care Academy *invitation only*  
 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Farm Credit VIP Program  
 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM Registration *invitation only*  
 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM MANRRS Pop-Up Shop  
 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM Exhibitor Setup  
 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Annual Appreciation Luncheon\* – *invitation only*  
**2:00 PM - 5:00 PM**  
 • MANRRS Bowl - preliminary round  
 • Impromptu Speaking  
 • Graduate Oral Research Div I  
 • Undergraduate Oral Research Div I  
 • Undergraduate Oral Research Div II  
 • Graduate Oral Research Div II  
 • Undergraduate Posters setup - Div I & II  
 • Graduate Posters setup - Div I & II  
 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM Branding You: Mock Interviews and Resume Critiques  
 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Junior MANRRS Welcome  
 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Opening General Session  
 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Presidents' Reception: The Roaring 20's  
 8:30 PM - 10:00 PM Junior MANRRS Student Game Night  
 9:30 PM - 11:30 PM Graduate Student Connect  
 9:30 PM - 11:30 PM Professional Hospitality

# SATURDAY, MARCH 23

8:00 AM - 8:50 AM Morning General Session  
 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Junior MANRRS High School Symposium  
 Graduate Student Symposium  
 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Workshop A  
 9:00 AM - 9:50 PM Workshop B  
 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM MANRRS Pop-Up Shop  
 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM Workshop C  
 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM Golden Awards Brunch\*  
 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Networking Break  
 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM National Leadership Forum & Business Meeting  
 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM New Officer Meeting  
 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM All Black Gala and Awards  
 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Banquet\* **Doors Open at 6:30 PM**

# FRIDAY, MARCH 22

7:00 AM - 6:00 PM Registration  
 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast of Champions  
 General Session  
 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Junior MANRRS Program  
 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM MANRRS Pop-Up Shop  
 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Membership Meetings  
 • Professional Meeting  
 • Undergraduate Student Meeting  
 • Graduate Student Meeting  
 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Branding You  
 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM Student Contests  
 • 3-Minute Thesis  
 • Business Pitch  
 • Graduate Posters - Div I & II  
 • MANRRS BOWL - Semi-Finals  
 • Public Speaking  
 • Research Discussion  
 • Undergraduate Posters - Div I & II  
 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Career Expo Box Lunch  
 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Advisor Appreciation Reception  
 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Career Expo







# MANRRS INCLUDES 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Summit

The Diversity Summit **IS NOT** included with conference registration. This event is an **ADD-ON** and can be added to your full registration or attended as a single event.

<b>Professional Fee:</b>	Early Bird by 12/31 \$250	Regular Rate by 1/31 \$300	Late Rate by 2/29 \$350	Onsite Rate Onsite on 3/1 \$400
<b>Graduate Fee:</b>	Early Bird by 12/31 \$175	Regular Rate by 1/31 \$200	Late Rate by 2/29 \$225	Onsite Rate Onsite on 3/1 \$300

The MANRRS Diversity Summit provides a forum for robust and informed discussion and dialogue among university faculty, government leaders, corporate executives, and MANRRS members about issues relative to building and sustaining an inclusive and welcoming organizational culture. At this year’s summit, we hope to facilitate a variety of discussions, panels, and workshops from experts with direct experiences in recruiting, retaining, and developing diverse talent. At the conclusion of the symposium, participants will have gained direct insight into how to recruit, retain, and develop diverse talent, gained relationships with diversity and inclusion experts, and also learned how to create a welcoming environment.

The primary audiences of the symposium are institutional leaders, university administration and faculty, corporate executives, HR, D&I Offices, and staff who have responsibilities for hiring and student academic success. We invite all agriculture, natural resources, and related science industrial leaders to participate and contribute to the dialogue and discussions as a way to make your voices heard as we work together to “Inspire to Inspire.”

## Preliminary Agenda

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

- 6:00 PM–7:00 PM Reception & National Student Officer Showcase  
*An interactive MANRRS student showcase of student internships, education abroad experiences and research throughout country and around the globe!*
- 7:00 PM–9:00 PM Gaining Ground Documentary Screening and Q&A

### THURSDAY, MARCH 21

- 7:30 AM–8:00 AM Networking Breakfast
- 8:00 AM–9:00 AM General Session: InspireNxt: Shaping the Future Workforce
- 9:10 AM–11:10 AM Breakout Sessions
- 11:20 AM–12:00 PM Closing Session





## THURSDAY, MARCH 21

8:00 AM–9:00 AM

### InspireNxt: Shaping the Future Workforce

Dive into strategies and insights to inspire and empower the next generation workforce. This workshop equips participants with tools to mentor, lead, and foster innovation, ensuring a dynamic and resilient workforce for the challenges ahead.

9:10 AM–10:10 AM

### 1A) EmpowerED: Cultivating Inclusive Excellence

Join our workshop to explore the foundations of inclusion, understanding how individual efforts contribute to creating a more diverse and equitable environment. Gain practical insights and tools to promote inclusivity in both personal and professional spheres.

### 2A) Harvesting Opportunities: Funding Fundamentals and Fellowships for AgEntrepreneurship

Unearth the essential knowledge for securing financial support and fellowships in the realm of agricultural entrepreneurship. This workshop delves into funding strategies, grants, and fellowship opportunities tailored to cultivate success in the agribusiness landscape.

10:20 AM–11:20 AM

### 1B) Aspire to Inspire Allyship

Elevate your allyship skills in this empowering workshop. Learn practical ways to foster inclusivity, support diverse voices, and create a positive impact in your personal and professional circles. Join us on a journey of inspiration and allyship.

### 2B) Inclusive Tech Futures: DEI Strategies in the Age of AI

Join our workshop to explore how organizations are actively integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) principles into the realm of artificial intelligence. Gain insights into inclusive AI policies, diverse talent cultivation, and ethical practices shaping the future of technology. Walk away with actionable strategies for fostering a more equitable and diverse AI landscape within your organization.



**BASF**  
We create chemistry

**M**  
**MANRRS**  
Agriculture

**M**  
**MANRRS**  
Agriculture  
**TRACTOR SUPPLY**

## JUNIOR MANRRS CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Several colleges and universities established “Junior” MANRRS chapters to promote agricultural literacy and awareness in their communities. Collegiate MANRRS members serve as mentors to Junior MANRRS members and encourage them to participate in service learning activities, science fairs, and educational programs to help them understand how they can apply their skills in an agricultural discipline. Junior MANRRS chapters from around the country are invited to participate in the celebration of the 38th Annual Training Conference and Career Expo.

The Junior MANRRS Committee planned activities for high school and middle school students allowing them to discuss leadership skills, problem solve ethical issues, and network with professionals, students and representatives of food, agricultural, natural resources, and related sciences’ industries.

Through the High School Symposium and the Junior MANRRS program, MANRRS is doing its part in raising awareness of the importance of including underrepresented groups in agriculture and related fields. The conference will serve as a vehicle to help inform students of the many opportunities available to them as they prepare for college and the “Real World.” Our goal is to plant the seed of encouragement through education, thus creating a pipeline of students who will pursue agriculture and natural resources and related sciences as fields of study. The youth are our FUTURE...Let us SUPPORT and LEAD them as they become agricultural professionals, scientists and scholars.

## JUNIOR MANRRS PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Daily Curfew: 11:00 PM

### THURSDAY, MARCH 21

- 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Kick-Off
- 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Opening General Session
- 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Presidents’ Reception: Roaring 20’s
- 9:30 PM - 10:30 PM Student Game Night

### FRIDAY, MARCH 22

- 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM Breakfast of Champions General Session
- 9:00 AM - 3:00PM Junior MANRRS Campus Experience (off site)
- 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM Junior MANRRS Career Expo Exploration

### SATURDAY, MARCH 23

- 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM High School Symposium
- 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM National Awards Brunch
- 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM Junior MANRRS City Exploration
- 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Gala Banquet Dinner



## JUNIOR MANRRS KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### **CYNTHIA CHAPPLE FOUNDER, BLACK GIRLS DO STEM**

Cynthia is a founder, social entrepreneur and innovative scientist. All of the work she does is about liberation on her own terms.

Cynthia is the founder of Black Girls Do STEM. In March, 2019, it became a 501(c)(3) incorporated non-for-profit organization, offering a full pilot STEM program for 6th-9th grade Black girls and support services for 10th-12th graders. Black Girls Do STEM utilizes STEM career exploration to curate culturally safe, expansive and resilient spaces for Black girls to learn and heal while decolonizing STEM. Black Girls Do STEM doesn't simply teach or even expose Black girls to STEM, but transforms what Black girls think, see and believe of themselves, their communities, their schools, and their capacity to be innovators and world changers by triggering the power of curiosity.

## JUNIOR MANRRS STUDENT COMPETITIONS

**Junior MANRRS Contest Deadline: March 1, 2024**

**Submissions: <https://manrrs.submittable.com/submit>**

### **Agriculture & Science Photography 2025 Theme Contest**

These contests are open to high school students. Check pages 30-31 for contest details.

### **Junior MANRRS Written Essay**

This contest is for high school students to prepare a clear, concise, and well thought out essay that discusses the theme of the conference. This contest provides an opportunity for students to gain experience in expressing themselves through writing. Essays will be judged and winners selected prior to the conference.

**Awards:**

1st Place: \$125 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$75 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$50 and a certificate

### **Junior MANRRS Public Speaking**

This contest is for high school students who submit and deliver a speech that will be rated on content, style, and clarity of expression, power of expression, voice, stage presence, organization, and logic. Participation in this contest will give students skills in public speaking, written communication, organizing information, leadership, and communicating in an interactive setting.

**Awards:**

1st Place: \$125 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$75 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$50 and a certificate

### **Junior MANRRS Impromptu Speaking**

The MANRRS Impromptu Public Speaking Contest is designed to develop the ability of all MANRRS members to express themselves on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. This gives the MANRRS members an opportunity to formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited amount of time. The event requires students to think on their feet, state their case quickly and persuasively, and to be able to answer relevant questions based upon their presentation

**Awards:**

1st Place: \$125 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$75 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$50 and a certificate



# SATURDAY, MARCH 23

## HIGH SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The future of agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences lies in the hands of our young people. To assist young people in understanding how agriculture and related sciences permeate their daily lives, it is critical that we start early. The Junior MANRRS Committee, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, and FCAE encourage full participation of the youth in the greater Illinois and surrounding areas in planned activities and programs geared toward exposing them to the National MANRRS Society and the many opportunities available in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. During this celebration of the 38th Annual Training Conference and Career Expo, many components will be devoted to local high school students and Junior MANRRS Members.

The High School Symposium will allow high school students to participate in interactive workshops and discussions on leadership skills, networking, preparing for college, and opportunities in agricultural and natural science fields. Students also will have ample opportunities to visit and interact with MANRRS student officers and members. The Junior MANRRS Committee would like to help you prepare for college and discover cutting-edge careers available in food, agriculture, bioscience, natural resources, and technology.

### High School Symposium Schedule

8:00AM-8:15 AM

#### Welcome & Refreshments

8:15 AM-9:00 AM

#### Workshop Rotation #1

- Understanding Self: Exploring Your Inner World
- Building Community: Connections and Collaborations
- Preparing to be a professional: Building Skills for the Workplace

9:05 AM-9:50 AM

#### Workshop Rotation #2

- Understanding Self: Exploring Your Inner World
- Building Community: Connections and Collaborations
- Preparing to be a professional: Building Skills for the Workplace

9:55 AM-10:40 AM

#### Workshop Rotation #3

- Understanding Self: Exploring Your Inner World
- Building Community: Connections and Collaborations
- Preparing to be a professional: Building Skills for the Workplace

10:45 AM-11:45 AM

#### Student Presentations

12:00 PM-2:00 PM

#### Awards Luncheon

### Junior MANRRS Workshops

#### Understanding Self: Exploring Your Inner World

This workshop is designed to provide Junior MANRRS students with a deeper understanding of themselves and their inner world. Through a series of interactive exercises, discussions, and self-reflection activities, Junior MANRRS students will embark on a journey of self-discovery and self-awareness.

#### Building Community: Connections and Collaborations

This workshop will empower Junior MANRRS students with knowledge and skills to create strong and inclusive communities. This interactive and engaging workshop will help Junior MANRRS students explore the importance of building connections, fostering collaboration, and promoting a sense of belonging.

#### Preparing to be a Professional: Building Skills for the Workplace

This workshop will cover a range of topics, including effective communication techniques, both verbal and written, to ensure clear and concise messaging. Junior MANRRS students will also learn about professional etiquette, including appropriate behavior, dress code, and workplace norms, to make a positive impression on colleagues and superiors. Additionally, Junior MANRRS students will delve into personal branding and professional presence.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 21

### Annual Partner Appreciation Luncheon

1:00 PM–2:30 PM

The Partner Appreciation Luncheon is an invitation only event to recognize MANRRS Supporters and Partners.

### National Student Competitions

2:00 PM–5:00 PM

- Graduate Oral Research Division I & II
- Graduate Poster setup - Division I & II
- Impromptu Speaking
- MANRRS Bowl - preliminary round
- Undergraduate Oral Research Division I & II
- Undergraduate Poster setup - Division I & II

### Branding You with Industry Partners

3:00 PM–4:30 PM

Looking to land your dream job!? Learn how to market yourself and develop your personal brand and target your ideal job. To land your dream job, you will learn how to build your network to connect and be a part of the community that you have a passion for in the workforce. You will receive resume critiques and set yourself up for success with mock interviews.

### The Roaring 20's: Opening General Session & Reception

6:00 PM–9:30 PM

Join us as we kick off the anniversary celebration of MANRRS 38th Annual Training Conference and Career Expo, commencing with this year's Opening General Session. Immediately following the General Session, attend this festive event to network with attendees and meet chapter members from across the country. Attendees are encouraged to wear attire inspired by the roaring 20's.



# FRIDAY, MARCH 22

## Breakfast of Champions General Session

7:30 AM–9:00 AM

Join this session to recognize MANRRS Gives individual donors and supporters. Badges will be checked upon entrance. **Additional GIVING details are included in the back of this program guide.**

## Membership Business Meetings: Graduate, Professional, and Undergraduate

9:30 AM–11:00 AM

Open to all financial members and delegates from chapters in good standing. Badges will be checked upon entrance.

## Branding You with Industry Partners

10:30 AM–12:00 PM

## National Student Competitions

11:00 AM–1:00 PM

- 3-Minute Thesis
- Business Pitch
- Graduate Poster - Division I & II
- MANRRS BOWL - Semi-Finals
- Public Speaking
- Research Discussion
- Undergraduate Poster - Division I & II

## Career Expo Box Lunch

11:30 AM–12:30 PM

## Career Expo

1:00 PM–5:00 PM

This event provides the perfect venue for students and professionals to recruit and meet with representatives from government, industry, and academia. The Career Expo is an excellent opportunity to network and develop contacts for future internships or job opportunities. Some employers will conduct on-the-spot interviews during the Career Expo. Bring several copies of your professional resume, business cards, and plan to attend whether you are a freshman, senior, or professional looking for a change in careers.

## Advisor Appreciation Reception

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

Hard work and dedication are not new concepts to our chapter advisors. To show our appreciation, Chapter Advisors are invited to attend the

## Explore Chicago

5:00 PM–8:00 PM

Open time for registered attendees to explore the Chicago area for dinner and entertainment at your leisure.

## Graduate Student Mixer

6:00 PM–8:30 PM

Sponsored informal event for registered graduate students. The event will be located offsite.

## Junior MANRRS Game Night

8:30 PM–11:00 PM

Sponsored informal event for registered professionals and alumni. Curfew is 11:00 PM and will be strictly enforced.

## Student Talent Show

8:30 PM–12:00 AM

Open time for registered student attendees to enjoy entertainment and music and display their talents.

## Professional Hospitality: Chicago Nights

8:30 PM–12:00 AM

Open time for registered professional attendees to enjoy a Casino themed event, music, and anticipated Spades Tournament.



## MANRRS POP-UP SHOP

Shop MANRRS store for the latest attire and gifts. Bulk ordering will be available for shipping post conference. **Cash will not be accepted.**

## SHOPPING HOURS:

Thursday, March 21: 12PM - 6PM

Friday, March 22: 9AM - 6PM

Saturday, March 23: 9AM - 5PM



## SATURDAY, MARCH 23

### General Session

8:00 AM–8:50 AM (Doors open at 7:45 AM)

Students are encouraged to attend this breakfast networking session to engage in industry-related discussions with organization professionals.

### Workshops

9:00 AM–11:50 AM

### Golden Awards Brunch

12:00 PM–2:00 PM

National Partners will have the opportunity to celebrate with the brightest students attending the National Conference. The event is open to all registered conference attendees.

### Networking Break

2:00 PM–2:30 PM

Light refreshments provided.

### National Leadership Forum and Business Meeting

2:30 PM–4:00 PM

**Open to active members only.** All members are encouraged to attend as official business items are shared, amendments presented and national officers confirmed. Chapter delegates and paid professional members are strongly encouraged to attend.

### All Black Awards Gala

7:00 PM–9:00 PM (Doors open at 6:30 PM)

The Awards Gala is an event to celebrate, congratulate and recognize MANRRS Scholarship Winners, Supporters and the winner of the Public Speaking Contest will give their winning speech.





## **SATURDAY, MARCH 23**

### **GALA BANQUET KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

### **SAM ACHO**

**Author • ESPN Analyst • 9-year NFL veteran • Founder of Athletes for Justice • Ambassador for International Justice Mission • Director of Human Capital, Innovation and Impact at AWM Capital**

Sam Acho is an author, a public speaker, a humanitarian, an in-studio analyst for ESPN, a nine-year NFL veteran and a committed Christian. He's also currently an ambassador for the International Justice Mission.

Sam was recently inducted into the University of Texas Athletics Hall of Honor, having played college football at the University of Texas at Austin, where he received the William V. Campbell Trophy for being college football's top scholar-athlete. He also won



the NCAA Top VIII Award, which recognizes the top eight student-athletes in all of sports, and was named the 2010 Big 12 Sportsman of the Year. In 2011, Sam was drafted by the Arizona Cardinals and played four seasons as a linebacker with the team. He then signed with the Chicago Bears for the 2015–2016 season and played four years there before spending the 2019 season with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

In 2016 and 2017, Sam was the Bears' nominee for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award, the league's only award that recognizes both civic and professional contributions. Sam served on the leadership committee for both the Cardinals and the Bears. He was also vice president of the NFL Players Association, an organization in which he served since his second year in the NFL.

Having grown up in Dallas with parents who emphasized scholastic achievement, Sam was named by Sporting News as one of the twenty smartest athletes in all of sports. He received his MBA in 2015 at Thunderbird School of Global Management, the #1 ranked international MBA program in the world. Sam is the founder and president of Athletes for Justice, an organization that works to unite professional athletes and everyday athletes to fight injustices around the world. He has been featured in Super Bowl commercials highlighting his social justice efforts in the city of Chicago.

Sam's first book, *Let the World See You: How to Be Real in a World Full of Fakes*, was released in October 2020. In it, he shares lessons from his own life as well as stories from others to reveal how you can overcome your fears and discover your true selves. His second book, *Change Starts With You: Following Your Fire to Heal a Broken World*, was released in March 2023.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**



## WORKSHOPS

Conference student attendees are strongly encouraged to attend workshops on Saturday, March 23. Workshops will be led by industry leaders and experts in their respective areas. Workshops have been designated for specific membership tiers.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 23

#### Workshop Session A 9:00 AM–9:50 AM

##### A1) Land Your Dream Job in 30 Seconds: Effective Elevator Speech

Are you ready to level up and showcase yourself and skills? Master the art of the elevator pitch and learn how to land your dream job in just 30 seconds with our highly effective and engaging workshop!

##### A2) Planting your Passion & Harvesting Your Purpose

Unlock your true potential and cultivate a fulfilling life with this engaging panel discussion, “Planting your Passion and Harvesting your Purpose.” Discover the power of aligning your passions with your purpose and gain insights as to how your dreams can blossom into reality.

##### A3) From “I Can” to “Icon:” The Importance of Branding and Reputation

Turn your personal brand into an iconic force with our game-changing workshop, “From I Can to Icon: The Importance of Branding Your Reputation.” Learn the art of building a powerful and authentic reputation that sets you apart from the crowd and propels you toward success.

##### A4) Beyond the Degree: Future Proof Skills Sets

You’ve earned the degree, what’s next? Learn to elevate it skills and future-proof your career with our dynamic workshop, “Beyond the Degree: Future Proof Skill Sets.” Learn the essential skills and strategies needed to stay relevant in a rapidly changing world, and explore limitless possibilities for professional growth and success.

#### Workshop Session B 10:00 AM–10:50 AM

##### B1) LinkedIn: Beyond the Profile

Unleash the power of LinkedIn and take your professional networking to new heights with our groundbreaking class, “LinkedIn: Beyond the Profile.” Discover insider secrets, expert strategies, and practical tips to optimize your presence, build meaningful connections, and engage in a world of career opportunities on the world’s largest professional platform.

##### B2) The Art of Storytelling

Harness the true power of captivating storytelling and elevate your ability to connect, inspire, and influence with our transformative class, “The Art of Storytelling.” Discover the secrets behind creating compelling narratives that leave a lasting impact on your audience and amplify your communication skills to a whole new level.

##### B3) Making a Memorable Mark

Make a lasting impression that sets you apart with our game-changing session, “Making a Memorable Mark: First Impression – Lasting Impact.” Listen as other share tips for leaving a lasting, positive impression in any situation, whether it’s networking, interviews, or meetings, and watch your personal and professional relationships thrive.



## B4) MANRRS For Life

Unlock the power of strong relationships and seize endless opportunities with our workshop entitled “MANRRS for Life: Cultivating Relationships.” Learn the essential skills and strategies to build meaningful connections, foster collaboration, and navigate professional relationships for lifelong success with MANRRS in the industry.

## C4) Innovation & Entrepreneurship: Building Generational Wealth

Tap into your entrepreneurial spirit and pave the way for generational wealth with our empowering class, “Innovation & Entrepreneurship: Building Generational Wealth.” Learn the key principles of innovation, develop a business mindset, and discover strategies to create lasting wealth for yourself and future generations in today’s dynamic and evolving business landscape.

### Workshop Session C 11:00 AM–11:50 AM

## C1) Emotional Intelligence: Creating Productive Work Environments

Elevate your leadership skills and create productive work environments with our in-depth workshop, “Emotional Intelligence: Creating Productive Work Environments.” Strengthen your ability to understand and manage emotions, foster effective communication, and nurture a positive and high-performing team culture for sustainable success in the workplace.



## C2) Serving Others: Careers from Farm to Fork

Embark on an engaging journey from ‘farm to fork’ and explore the diverse range of rewarding careers centered around serving others in our immersive session, “Serving Others: Careers from Farm to Fork.” Discover the vital roles and valuable impact made throughout the industry value chain, from production to distribution, as we inspire and empower you to make a difference in the world.

## C3) Who Moved My Cheese: Navigating Transition with Style

Listen to industry leaders as they share their stories of navigating life’s transitions with grace in our captivating conversation entitled, “Who Moved My Cheese: Navigating Transitions with Style.” Gain the skills and mindset to adapt to change, embrace new opportunities, and thrive in an ever-evolving world, leaving behind fear and uncertainty.





## THURSDAY, MARCH 21

### Graduate Student Connect

9:30 PM-11:30 PM

Network with graduate students from across the country.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 22

### Graduate Student Meeting

9:30 AM-11:00 AM

### Graduate Student Mixer

5:30 PM-7:30 PM

This event will be located offsite.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 23

### Graduate Student Summit

8:00 AM-12:00 PM

### Welcome Breakfast

8:00 AM-8:30 AM

### Workshop I: Think Smart

8:40 AM-9:30 AM

This workshop can help graduate students identify and prioritize their academic and career goals. It can cover effective goal-setting techniques, time management strategies, and the importance of setting SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) goals. Students can create personalized goal plans and learn how to stay motivated and on track throughout their graduate programs.

### Workshop II: Collaborative Research in Cross-Disciplinary Teams

9:40 AM-10:30 AM

A breakdown of technical writing. Do's/Don'ts Encourage graduate students to work across various disciplines within the fields of agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. This workshop can emphasize the value of interdisciplinary research, teach communication skills for working in diverse teams, and guide students through the process of initiating and managing collaborative research projects.

### Workshop III: Redefining Professional Development

10:40 AM-11:30 AM

Focus on developing skills that are essential in the agribusiness sector, such as marketing, finance, and supply chain management. Invite industry professionals to discuss current trends and challenges in the field. Work on case studies and projects to enhance students' understanding of real-world applications.

### Closing Session

11:35 AM-11:50 AM



# THURSDAY, MARCH 21

## Professional Hospitality

9:30 PM-11:30 PM

Network with registered professionals from across the country.

# FRIDAY, MARCH 22

## Professional Meeting

9:30 AM-11:00 AM

## Chapter Advisor Appreciation Reception

1:00 PM-2:00 PM

Advisors will attend a reception and a token of appreciation will be provided for collegiate chapter advisors.

## Professional Hospitality: Chicago Nights

8:30 PM-12:00 AM

Open time for registered professional attendees to enjoy a Casino themed event and Spades Tournament. Advance sign-up required. Limited number of team slots available on a first-come basis.

# SATURDAY, MARCH 23

9:00 AM-9:50 AM

## Chapter Advisors' Meeting

### A5) Professional Workshop - Advancing in Your Career: Strategies for Professional Growth

Supercharge your career growth with our comprehensive class, "Advancing in Your Career: Strategies for Professional Growth." Perfect the art of effective workplace communication while gaining essential knowledge that develops a career development plan complete with the tools needed to thrive both personally and professionally.

10:00 AM-10:50 AM

## Chapter Advisors: Aspire to Inspire

Learn about the importance of developing a chapter succession plan. Your National Officers will share tips on how to Collaborate with your Chapter Executive Team and Cultivate a Succession Plan to Motivate chapters as they prepare for the following academic year.

### B5) Professional Workshop - MANRRS for Life: Cultivating Relationships

Harness the power of strong relationships and cultivate a thriving career with our dynamic class, "MANRRS for Life: Cultivating Relationships." Develop the skills and insights needed to build meaningful connections, foster collaboration, and navigate professional relationships for lifelong success with MANRRS, in the industry and beyond.

11:00 AM-11:50 AM

## Chapter Advisors: "Why MANRRS?"

An interactive round table workshop about "Who We Are" and "Our MANRRS Brand." This workshop will consist of a guided discussion reflecting on what makes MANRRS stand out from other organizations on our campuses and how to use our findings to increase recruitment, retention, visibility, and sharing "Why MANRRS?"

### C5) Professional Workshop - Battling Burnout

Are you feeling exhausted, overwhelmed, and unmotivated? Battling Burnout is the dialogue for you! Learn practical strategies to combat burnout and reignite your passion for life.





## Student Competitions

Contests will be held on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. All students should be prepared to compete upon arrival. There will be no practice time or space available. **Electronic submission is REQUIRED.** Contest guidelines can also be found on the MANRRS website.

**Submissions:** <https://manrrs.submittable.com/submit>

Contests are open to all undergraduate or graduate students who are members of MANRRS through chapter or independent membership. All students must be a registered member before the contest deadline: **January 31, 2024**. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for select contests will receive a monetary award and framed certificate. The winner of the Public Speaking Contest will present their speech at the Gala Banquet on Saturday evening.

### 1. MANRRS Bowl

MANRRS Bowl is a chapter competition designed to increase and test the knowledge of Members on MANRRS History and topics with regard to food, agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. Additionally, the competition promotes teamwork and encourages Regional pride.

**Awards:**

1st Place: \$500 and MANRRS Bowl trophy  
2nd Place: Certificate



2. Undergraduate Oral Research  
(Division I – Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences)
3. Undergraduate Oral Research  
(Division II – Education, Social Sciences, and Business)
4. Graduate Oral Research  
(Division I – Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences)
5. Graduate Oral Research  
(Division II – Education, Social Sciences, and Business)

These contests are for undergraduate and graduate students to gain experience and exposure by presenting their research project orally before an audience of their peers and professional members. The research presented must be work that the student member has conducted and must be agricultural or in one of the related sciences. The chapter advisor or the student's faculty research advisor (if there is no MANRRS chapter) must certify the research. Each presentation will be limited to 10 minutes.

**Awards:**

1st Place: \$300 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$200 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$100 and a certificate

6. Graduate Research Poster  
(Division I – Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences)
7. Graduate Research Poster  
(Division II – Education, Social Sciences, and Business)
8. Undergraduate Research Poster  
(Division I – Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences)
9. Undergraduate Research Poster  
(Division II – Education, Social Sciences, and Business)

This contest is now open to graduate and undergraduate students to gain experience and exposure before an audience, while highlighting the research work that they are doing. Research presented must be work the student has conducted and be related to agriculture or a related science. The student's faculty research advisor must certify that the research is the work of the presenter. Posters can be entered as competitive or noncompetitive. Entries may not be duplicated and entered in the Graduate Student Oral Research Contest or Undergraduate Student Oral Research Contest.

**Awards:**

1st Place: \$300 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$200 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$100 and a certificate

## 10. Research Discussion

This contest is for undergraduate and graduate students who are members of MANRRS through chapter or independent membership and focuses on interactive communication processes using research-based material. The goal is for participants to demonstrate a higher level of competence in oral communications, learn to present research information in an interactive setting, develop critical thinking skills, and show an ability to handle information. Participation in the contest will help undergraduates and graduates prepare for the real world work place, obtain leadership and management activity skills, and learn more about current research issues and topics.

### Awards:

1st Place: \$300 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$200 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$100 and a certificate

## 11. Written Essay

This contest is for undergraduate students to prepare a clear, concise, and well thought out essay that discusses the theme of the conference. This contest provides an opportunity for students to gain experience in expressing themselves through writing. Essays will be judged and winners selected prior to the conference.

### Awards:

1st Place: \$300 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$200 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$100 and a certificate

## 12. Public Speaking

This contest is for undergraduate students who submit and deliver a speech that will be rated on content, style, and clarity of expression, power of expression, voice, stage presence, organization, and logic. Participation in this contest will give students skills in public speaking, written communication, organizing information, leadership, and communicating in an interactive setting. The winner of the Public Speaking Contest will give their speech at the Closing Gala Dinner to be held on Saturday, March 23rd.

### Awards:

1st Place: \$300 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$200 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$100 and a certificate

## 13. Impromptu Speaking

The MANRRS Impromptu Public Speaking Contest is designed to develop the ability of all MANRRS members to express himself or herself on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. This provides the MANRRS members an opportunity to gain public speaking skills and effective quick and critical thinking as they formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited amount of time. The event requires students to think on their feet, state their case quickly and persuasively, and to be

able to answer relevant questions from the audience and judges based upon their presentation. Regional winners were selected from the regional clusters and compete in the national competition.

### Awards:

1st Place: \$300 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$200 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$100 and a certificate

## 14. Agriculture & Science Photography

The purpose of the MANRRS Photography Contest is to provide MANRRS members the opportunity to express their love for agriculture and related sciences in an artistic form.

The National Executive Committee will determine the top five photographs in the preliminary round to advance to the National Conference. The top 5 finalists' entries will be displayed and voted on by conference attendees via electronic voting. The overall winner will be announced at the Closing Gala Dinner, Saturday, March 23rd.

### Award:

- 1st Place: \$300 and a certificate

## 15. 2025 Theme

The MANRRS Executive Committee is soliciting your recommendations for the theme of the next Annual Training Conference and Career Expo. All MANRRS members are encouraged to enter this contest.

Submissions will be voted on by the National Executive Committee. The theme with the most votes will be announced at the Annual National Conference. The overall winner will be announced at the Closing Gala Dinner, Saturday, March 23rd.

### Award:

- 1st Place: \$300 and a certificate

## 16. CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The MANRRS Chapter of the Year Award (COYA) competition was designed to promote leadership development among local chapters. Such development should further the goals and objectives of the National Society, as well as promote professional growth among local student members.

The chapters will be selected and rated on the following:

- Building chapter membership,
- Leadership development,
- Community service, and
- Promotion of the National Society.

Chapters competing in this contest should develop a Chapter Annual Summary.

### Awards:

- National COYA Winner: \$1,000 and trophy
- 2nd Place Winner: \$500
- 3rd Place Winner: \$250

## CALL FOR JUDGES FOR STUDENT CONTESTS

We are soliciting professionals to serve as a contest judge for any of the collegiate or Junior MANRRS contests.

Register as a contest judge by January 31, 2024 through your conference registration. The contest superintendent will confirm your participation by this date.

For complete contest and judging guidelines and timelines, refer to the National Contest Guidelines on the MANRRS website. Additional questions can be directed to [contest@manrrs.org](mailto:contest@manrrs.org).

- Business Pitch Contest
- Impromptu Speaking Contest
- Graduate Oral Research (2 divisions)
  - Division I – Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences
  - Division II – Education, Social Sciences & Business
- Graduate Poster Research
  - Division I – Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences
  - Division II – Education, Social Sciences & Business
- MANRRS Bowl
- National Theme
- Photography Contest
- Public Speaking Contest
- Research Discussion Contest
- Three-Minute Thesis
- Undergraduate Oral Research (2 divisions)
  - Division I – Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences
  - Division II – Education, Social Sciences, and Business
- Undergraduate Poster Research
  - Division I – Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences
  - Division II – Education, Social Sciences & Business
- Written Essay Contest

## FUNDRAISING GOAL \$380,000

MANRRS is unleashing the power of generosity around the world and see how much farther we can go when we unite for the good of others.

Non-profit organizations rely on donors like you to grow and thrive so that we can do more for the communities that we serve.

### OUR MISSION IS CLEAR:

MANRRS is the voice that promotes academic and professional advancement for minorities in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. Through community, affirmation, and empowerment, our members change the future of the industry to a more equitable and diverse environment.

Every dollar will benefit the development of our MANRRS members. By donating to MANRRS **you** become the change, **you** change the narrative, and **you** change an experience.

### SCAN TO DONATE







**SAVE THE DATE**

**MANRRS39**

**APRIL 2-6, 2025**

**MEMPHIS, TN**

**INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A MANRRS39  
CONFERENCE HOST?**

**EMAIL: [EXEC.OFFICE@MANRRS.ORG](mailto:EXEC.OFFICE@MANRRS.ORG)**



**MANRRS** 38

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