



Annual Training Conference and Career Expo

MANRRS: LEADERSHIP TO LEGACY

APRIL 9-12, 2026

Hilton Anatole Dallas | Dallas, TX

Preliminary Program and Registration Guide



Presented in partnership with:



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 40th Annual Training Conference and Career Expo.



BASF

At BASF, we are constantly striving to combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. Through science and innovation, we enable farmers to make the most of every acre and meet the current and future needs of society.

www.basf.com



Dairy Farmers of America

DFA is the largest supplier of raw milk in the world and the second largest global dairy company. DFA is a community of accountants, scientists, engineers, computer technicians, communicators and more. Whether you've stepped foot on a dairy farm or not, there's a place at DFA for you. We continue to work to create and promote a culture that is welcoming to everyone. DFA is a Cooperative ran by 10,000 farm families with 18,000 employees across the country.

www.dfamilk.com



John Deere

We Run For ALL. By helping provide food, fiber, fuel, and infrastructure, we work for every single person on the planet. And powered by our higher purpose – We Run So Life Can Leap Forward – we're taking on some of humanity's biggest challenges. If that motivates you like it motivates us, explore a great career with John Deere.

www.deere.com



Prairie View A&M University

The College of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources CAFNR operates in the land-grant tradition of providing teaching research and service through its academic, extension and research compents. From the field to the market, and all in between, PVAMU strives to build excellence in the classroom and beyond! Our outreach programs aim to translate science for the public, prepare people for a better life, develop partnerships, and connect people online.

www.pvamu.edu



Tarleton State University MANRRS Chapter

The Tarleton State University Chapter of MANRRS is proud to serve as this year's National Conference Host. Our chapter is dedicated to fostering academic excellence, leadership, and inclusion within agriculture and related fields. Through community engagement and professional development, we strive to empower the next generation of diverse leaders who are changing the face of agriculture.

www.tartleton.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 40th Annual Training Conference and Career Expo.

TITANIUM PLUS LEVEL (\$250,000+)



TITANIUM LEVEL (\$100,000+)



DIAMOND LEVEL (\$75,000+)



PLATINUM LEVEL (\$50,000+)



GOLD LEVEL (\$25,000+)



BRONZE LEVEL (\$10,000+)



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.
2024	MANRRS: Aspire to Inspire
2025	MANRRS: I Am, Because You Are
2026	MANRRS: Leadership to Legacy

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the National Society of MANRRS it is an honor to welcome you to our 40th Annual Training Conference and Career Expo. We are excited to gather to celebrate not only our past, but to look boldly towards our future with resilience, perseverance, and an unwavering pursuit of the possible. This year as we celebrate our theme "Leadership to Legacy", it is particularly poignant that we commemorate in Dallas, TX. Part of my own legacy lives in Texas and I'm overwhelmed with excitement for all we will do in fellowship together.

Our 40th Anniversary comes at a critical time for our industry and our society. While it is easy to get frustrated with the headwinds of current events, we know our society and our industry has weathered challenges before and emerged stronger and more resilient. I encourage each of you to utilize our time together to create the bonds and relationships that will fuel the passion and fortitude that will propel us forward into the future. Our legacy lives in every one of you and we are committed to supporting you today, tomorrow, and in the future.

At MANRRS we have remained steadfast in our mission to uplift those who seek to create impact in the fields of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences. We will not waver in creating opportunities across our ecosystem and thank our many partners who have stood with us over our history. Through our dynamic programming, engagement, and chapters across the country we are reaching more minds than ever before and helping them manifest their full potential by pursuing careers in our industries.

Our 40th will never come again, and it has been my sincerest pleasure and honor to serve this year. As my time in the role ends, I see how bright the future is for our society and our industry and look forward to continuing to root for MANRRS and its members. Remember your legacy starts NOW. I AM MANRRS, YOU ARE MANRRS, WE ARE MANRRS!

Ryan Locke
National President, 2025-2026

RCL



2025-2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Ryan Locke
National President



Dr. Kendriana Price
National President-Elect



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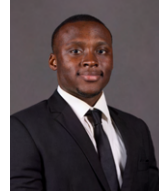
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Past GR Student President



Drew Parker
Past UG Student President



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Region I GR Vice President



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Region I UG Vice President



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Region II GR Vice President



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NATIONAL STAFF



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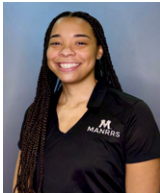
Ashantae Smith
Director of Operations



Dwane Matthews
Program Manager



Marquel Lett
Director of Development



Carla Soto
University Relations Coordinator



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Junior MANRRS Coordinator



Darren Armstrong
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ADVISORY BOARD



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Kayla Braggs
University of Florida



Dr. Stephon Fitzpatrick
Together We Grow



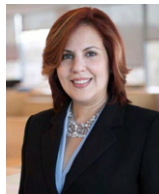
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Purdue



Evelyn Ortiz
Zoetis



Drew Parker
Purdue



Cynthia Stokley
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PAST CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



2026 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

As we prepare for the 40th Annual MANRRS Training Conference and Career Expo, the 2026 Conference Planning Committee and Region IV invite you to join us in Dallas, Texas for this milestone celebration. This year's theme, Leadership to Legacy, honors the trailblazers who have led the way and the emerging leaders shaping the future.

Prepare to learn, connect, and lead. The conference will feature high-impact workshops, mentorship spaces, and collaborative sessions that spark innovation and build community. At the Career Expo, you'll meet recruiters and professionals eager to engage with the next generation of leaders, opening doors to opportunities across sectors and regions.

Your presence and participation help strengthen our Society and its mission. We look forward to welcoming you in Dallas as we continue to cultivate leadership, excellence, and lasting impact in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences — for the 21st century and beyond.

Conference Planning Committee

BASF

Dairy Farmers of America

John Deere

Prairie View and A&M University

Tarleton State University MANRRS Chapter

AN OVERVIEW OF MANRRS HISTORY

In the early 1980s, a concerned 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 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, 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, 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 2026 conference, go to www.manrrs.org/national-conference. Follow the links to complete the online registration.

All payments must be paid in full by March 30, 2026.

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 and Dinner**
 - **Sat: Brunch and Gala Dinner.**
- Conference Packet with giveaway items

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 30, 2026. 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: MANRRS Conference
P.O. Box 767726, Roswell, GA 30076

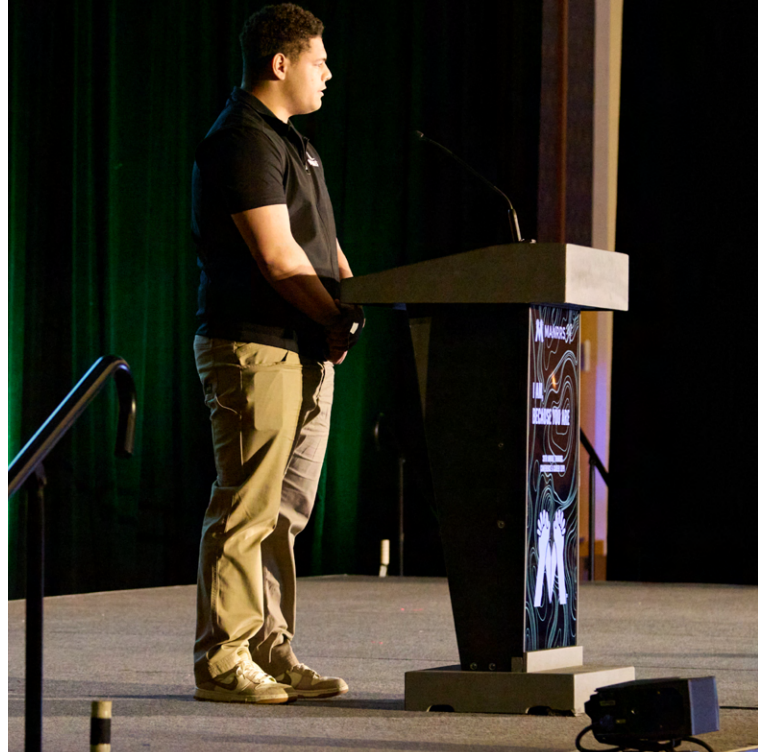
Questions, email - billing@manrrs.org

All conference cancellations must be received in writing by February 16, 2026, and directed to MANRRS@ameetingplace.com. **Registrations may be transferred to another participant of the same registration type by March 30, 2026.** 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 Hilton Anatole Dallas 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.**

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: MANRRS, 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** by **March 1, 2026**. 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 Dallas 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 April 8th), we will cancel your conference registration and you will receive a 50% refund. A positive test result must be provided.



2026 REGISTRATION COSTS

MEMBER	Early Bird By Dec. 31	Regular By Feb. 28	Late By Mar. 27	On-Site Fees Starting Mar. 28
Junior MANRRS	\$325	\$375	\$425	\$500
Chapter Advisor/Chaperone	\$575	\$625	\$675	\$775
Collegiate Student	\$500	\$550	\$600	\$675
Professional	\$700	\$750	\$800	\$875

NON-MEMBER

Collegiate Non-Member	\$600	\$650	\$700	\$775
Professional Non-Member	\$900	\$950	\$1000	\$1075
Friday Only (Universal)	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$375

GALA TICKETS

Universal	\$150
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Online Conference Registration is REQUIRED

Please visit 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



HOST HOTEL: Hilton Anatole Dallas

Reserve your Guest Rooms 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: **\$232.16 per night PLUS TAX**

Make your reservations EARLY! The group rate and rooms will be available until the MANRRS Room Block is full or by **March 2, 2026**, 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 March 2nd, will incur a non-refundable, one night's deposit charge of \$232.16.

Hilton Anatole Dallas

2201 N Stemmons Fwy
Dallas, TX 75207

Phone: (214) 748-1200

MANRRS Group Rate: \$232.16 + tax

Internet: Complimentary in sleeping rooms



GETTING TO DALLAS

Dallas is a city where rhythm, heritage, and flavor converge like nowhere else. Music lovers come to celebrate its rich roots—from early blues and jazz in Deep Ellum to the rise of country, punk, hip-hop and more in modern times. Today, the city continues to inspire contemporary artists and innovators across genres.

For more information on this, go to:

www.visitdallas.com

Travel by Air

Delta Airline Discount Information

Delta Air Lines is pleased to offer special discounts for MANRRS

Please click [here](#) to book your flights.

You may also call Conferences and Events® at (800) 328-1111* Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. (EST) and refer to Meeting Event Code **NY43E**

Southwest Airlines Discount Information

Receive discounted fare on flights for MANRRS40. Click [here](#) to utilize discount.

United Airlines Discount Information

United Airlines is pleased to offer MANRRS40 Attendees discounted fares.

Click [here](#) to utilize discount.

You may also call United Meetings Reservation Desk Monday – Friday at (800) 426-1122.

Dallas/Fort Worth Airport (DFW)

Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) serves nearly 88 million passengers each year, making it one of the busiest airports in the world.

Dallas Love Field Airport (DAL)

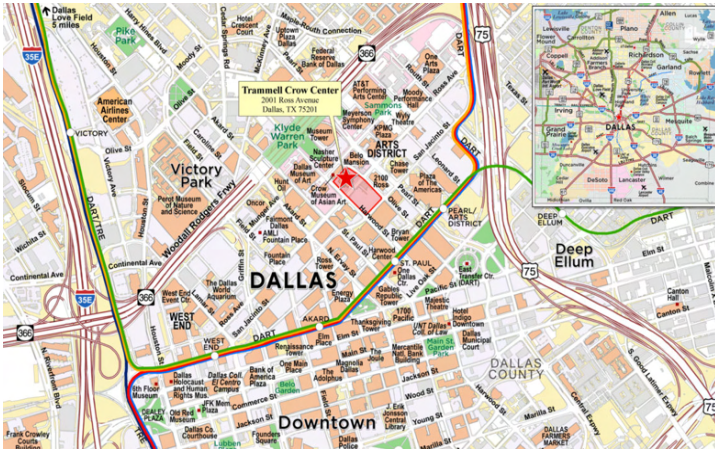
Dallas Love Field Airport (DAL) welcomes around 17–18 million travelers annually, offering a more intimate gateway into Dallas.

Ground Transportation Options:

Upon arrival, proceed to the designated ground-transportation curb outside baggage claim.

- Rideshare (Uber/Lyft) and taxi services are available at both airports.
- At Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW): Taxi/ride-share pickup is located on the lower level of Terminals A–E; DART rail service is accessible from Terminals A & B.
- At Dallas Love Field (DAL): Use the lower-level curb on Herb Kelleher Way for rideshare, taxis, and shuttles; the DART “Love Link” bus connects to light rail service.

For more information, visit the airport websites or contact airport transportation services



TRAVEL TO DALLAS

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. The Advisor of the Year Award honors MANRRS advisors who demonstrate exceptional dedication and leadership.

Nomination Link: info.manrrs.org/manrrs-aoya

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.



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.**



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

RECOMMENDED ATTIRE

Thursday, April 9

Opening General Session, Contests, and President's Reception

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

Friday, April 10

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, April 11

Meals, Business Meetings, Workshops

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

Gala Dinner: Formal Attire or Professional Attire

Friday/Saturday evening

Social Events & Evening Dance

Casual Dress: Appropriate casual attire

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Advisory Board Lunch – <i>invitation only</i>
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Advisory Board Meeting – <i>invitation only</i>
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Registration Opens

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

7:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Registration
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	MANRRS Pop-Up Shop
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Farm Credit VIP Scholars
12:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Exhibitor Setup
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Investors Luncheon* – <i>invitation only</i>
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Student Contests
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Non-Competitive Research Poster Symposium
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Branding You: Mock Interviews and Resume Critiques
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Junior MANRRS Kick-Off
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Opening Reception
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	Opening General Session
7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	President's Reception

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

7:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Registration
7:00 AM - 7:30 AM	Networking Breakfast
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	General Session
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Junior MANRRS Programming
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM	Non-Competitive Research Poster Symposium
8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Junior MANRRS Contests
8:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Junior MANRRS Service Project
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	MANRRS Pop-Up Shop
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Membership Business Meetings and Elections
	• Undergraduate • Graduate • Professional
10:00 AM - 11:50 AM	Junior MANRRS Workshops
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Branding You
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Student Contests
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	MANRRS Professional Innovation Lab
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Box Lunch
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Chapter Advisor Reception
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Junior MANRRS Stem Challenge
2:45 PM - 4:30 PM	Career Expo Exploration
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Cargill Thrive Scholars Reception <i>special invite only</i>

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

7:30 AM - 8:00 AM	Continental Breakfast
8:00 AM - 11:50 AM	Junior MANRRS High School Symposium
7:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Graduate Student Summit
8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Workshop I
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	MANRRS Pop-Up Shop
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Workshop II
10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	Workshop III
11:00 AM - 11:50 AM	Workshop IV
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	MANRRS Golden Awards Brunch
2:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Networking Break
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	National Leadership Forum & Business Meeting
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	New Officer & Junior MANRRS Ambassador Meeting
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	MANRRS Closing Gala Dinner <i>*Doors Open at 6:30 PM*</i>





MANRRS CAREER EXPO

The MANRRS Career Expo provides an opportunity for representatives of government, industry, academia, and nonprofit organizations to connect directly with some of the best and brightest students and professionals from more than 100 high schools, colleges, and universities representing 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Institutions as well as Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI).

The Career Expo, held on Friday, will help you recruit students and professionals to meet your needs for a talented workforce. Private interview rooms in the hotel may be requested at an additional cost

The Career Expo provides five hours of exhibition time. Secure your space now!

Exhibitor Booth Fees:	By 1/31/26 Single	By 2/28/26 Single	On-Site Single
Government/Academia/Nonprofit.....	\$2,000.....	\$2,150.....	\$2,250
Industry.....	\$2,900.....	\$3,050.....	\$3,150
<i>(PREMIUM BOOTH SPACE IS RESERVED FOR MANRRS NATIONAL PARTNERS)</i>			

Additional Exhibitor Fees:	By 1/31/26	By 2/28/26	On-Site
Additional Exhibitor Fee.....	\$400.....	\$450.....	\$525

- Additional booth representative name badges are available starting at \$350 each (price includes attendance for Friday events only).

Each Exhibitor will receive:

- Career Expo admission and representative name badge for one (1) representative from your organization for Friday only.
- Booth space during the Career Expo (Single - 10' height x 10' wide; Black/Gold Draped back wall (8' height) and side rail (3' height).
- Black Draped table (white) and 2 side chairs.
- One-line ID Sign (44"W x 7"H).
- Recognition on the Conference Website and Mobile App.
- Your organization's name, logo, and a description listed in the Exhibitor Guide.
- Rental options for private interview space based on availability starting at \$500 per space

Thursday, April 9

12:00 PM – 6:00 PM - Exhibitor Check-in and Set-up
 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM - Investor Luncheon (**invite only**)
 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM - Branding You Session
 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Opening Session and President's Reception

Friday, April 10

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM - Exhibitor Orientation/Briefing
 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM - Branding You Session
 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM - Career Expo Box Lunch
 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM - Career Expo Opens
 5:00 PM - Career Expo Closes, Exhibitor Take-down

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Advertising Opportunities include a variety of ad sizes in our conference program. An ad in our Conference Program book will reinforce your presence and help you recruit and secure long-term relationships.

Sizes:	Rates	
Full page, Two Color.....	\$1,100.....	7 ½" x 10"
Full page, BW.....	\$900.....	7 ½" x 10"
Half page (horizontal), Two-Color.....	\$875.....	7 ½" x 4 7/8"
Half page (horizontal), BW.....	\$675.....	7 ½" x 4 7/8"
Quarter page	\$525.....	5/8" x 4 7/8"

Covers:

Inside Front Cover.....	\$2,750.....	8 ½" x 11" (please include 1/8" bleed)
Inside Back Cover.....	\$1,750.....	7 ½" x 10" (please include 1/8" bleed)
Back Cover.....	\$2,500.....	8 ½" x 11" (please include 1/8" bleed)

Advertisement Sales Close on Friday, February 13, 2026.
Artwork Submission Deadline is Friday, February 20, 2026.

PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS:

- Conference Program Size: 8 ½" x 11"
- Terms: Advertisements are to be pre-paid. No commission allowed.
- Typesetting and any additional production costs will be billed to advertiser at prevailing rates for any changes to artwork.

DIGITAL FILES:

Digital files must be e-mailed to: hoover@1of4studio.com. All ads submitted digitally MUST BE in Macintosh compatible format in one of the following programs:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Adobe Acrobat PDF | Embed all fonts and images (<i>preferred</i>) |
| • QuarkXPress 6.5 | Macintosh Format, include all fonts and image links |
| • InDesign 3.0 | Macintosh Format, include all fonts and image links |
| • Adobe Illustrator 11.0 or lower save | Convert all fonts to outlines, include image links and to EPS files |
| • Adobe Photoshop 8.0 or lower | Render all type |
| • Macromedia Freehand EPS file save | Convert all fonts to outlines, include image links and to EPS files |

Ads saved into Adobe PDF will be accepted. Please "stuff" or "zip" all files and e-mail to hoover@1of4studio.com. For artwork submission, specifications or technical questions only, call Hoover Li at (503) 796-1095.

Any questions regarding advertising, please contact Lisa Hurly at (856) 429-8305 or by email at MANRRS@ameetingplace.com.

MANRRS CAREER EXPO RULES AND REGULATIONS



OFFICIAL GENERAL CONTRACTOR: MANRRS has appointed A MEETING COMPANY (AMC) as the official general contractor for the 2026 Training Conference and Career Expo. All references herein to MANRRS shall mean MANRRS and AMC.

ASSIGNMENT OF SPACE: Assignment of space will be at the discretion of MANRRS. Every effort will be made to accommodate requests for booth assignments. MANRRS reserves the right to make such changes to the floor plan of booths as may be deemed necessary.

EXHIBIT FEES AND PAYMENT OF SPACE: Registrations will NOT be processed or space assigned without the required payment. All applications must be accompanied by full payment. Checks should be made payable to: **MANRRS**, and mailed to: **ATTN: MANRRS, 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.

CANCELLATION: Cancellations of exhibit space must be directed in writing by **February 1, 2026** to: A Meeting Company at MANRRS@ameetingplace.com. Refunds will be provided, minus \$150 processing fee. No refund will be given for a cancellation made by February 1, 2025. In case of fire or any other causes beyond the control of MANRRS that prevent holding the show, this contract will not be binding.

EXHIBIT BOOTHS: There will be a total of 100 10'x10' booths. All booths will include one draped table, two side chairs, and a one-line identification sign (44" x 7") bearing the exhibitor's name and booth number. Booth numbers will be assigned at least 3 weeks prior to the Career Expo. You will receive a final confirmation with your booth numbers one week prior to the conference. If you do not receive this information, please contact A Meeting Company at MANRRS@ameetingplace.com.

INSTALLATION AND DISMANTLING:

Thursday, April 9 | 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM

- Exhibitor Check-in and Set-up

Friday, April 10 | 5:00 PM-8:00 PM

- Exhibitor Take-down and Move-out

SHIPPING: MANRRS will e-mail each exhibitor an Information and Service kit that provides exhibitors with complete shipping instructions, production information, and other forms for all services needed during the installations, how period, and removal of exhibits. Exhibitors needing special information before receiving the official exhibitor kit should contact the A Meeting Company at MANRRS@ameetingplace.com or (856) 429-8305.

Please Note: **DO NOT** ship exhibits directly to the Hilton Anatole Dallas. Shipments will not be accepted. Shipping instructions and storage fees will be included in the exhibitor packet.

CONFIRMATION: Upon receipt of your registration information, you will receive confirmation within 48 hours. If you **DO NOT** receive

confirmation, please contact Lisa Hurly at (856) 429-8305 or e-mail MANRRS@ameetingplace.com as your materials may not have been received.

EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION: Exhibitors can check in at the Career Expo Registration Desk on Thursday, April 9th, 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM, and Friday, April 10th, beginning at 7:00 AM. Exhibitors will be given name badges, which are to be worn at all times in the exhibit hall. No one will be admitted to the Career Expo hall without a name badge.

USE OF SPACE: Exhibitors shall not assign, share, or sublet any space without written consent of MANRRS. Care must be taken that no display extends more than 8' above the floor or more than 8' in depth from the back wall of the booth, or interferes with the view of other exhibitors. Noticeable noise produced from operation of any equipment or apparatus is not permitted.

LIABILITY: MANRRS and the Hilton Anatole Dallas will not be held responsible for the safety of the property of the exhibitors from theft, fire, damages, accident or other causes. Exhibitor agrees to protect, save and hold MANRRS and the Hilton Anatole Dallas and all agents and employees thereof (hereafter collectively called "indemnities") forever harmless for any damages or charges imposed for violations of any law or ordinance, whether occasioned by the negligence of the exhibitors or those associated with the exhibitor. Further, exhibitor shall at all times protect, indemnify, save and hold harmless the indemnities against and from any and all losses, costs (including attorney's fees), damages, liability or expense arising from or out of or by reason of any accident of bodily injury or other occurrence to any person or persons, including the exhibitors, its agents, employees and business invitee which arises from or out of or by reason of said exhibitor's occupancy and use of the exhibition premises or a part thereof.

SAFETY REGULATION: Exhibitors must adhere to all municipal and state laws, rules and regulations. No combustible decorations may be used at any time; all drapes, table coverings and other materials must comply with fire department regulations.

SECURITY (INSIDE AND OUTSIDE): The Career Expo is being held at the Hilton Anatole Dallas. Neither MANRRS nor the Hilton Anatole Dallas can be held responsible for any exhibit materials. Please take the necessary precautions each day for safeguarding your exhibit materials.

FAILURE TO OCCUPY SPACE: Space not occupied by the beginning of the Career Expo installation period as specified in these rules and regulations will be forfeited by the exhibitors. This space may be resold, reassigned or used by MANRRS.

SHOW CANCELLATION: If the Career Expo is canceled by MANRRS for any reason, MANRRS will not be held liable for any expenses incurred by the exhibitor beyond the rental cost of the booth space.

SELECTION OF EXHIBITORS: Only firms and organizations whose services and products are appropriately related to the purpose of MANRRS shall be permitted to exhibit. These contract Conditions, Rules and Regulations are a part of the MANRRS Exhibitor's Registration and Contract for exhibit. Please give a copy of these Rules and Regulations to the person(s) responsible for the setup of your booth(s).



JUNIOR MANRRS KEY FEATURES

Career Expo

Dive into the Career Expo! Meet industry leaders, explore career paths, and connect with professionals who can help shape your future.

College Fair

Get ready to explore what's next! Meet representatives from top universities, explore academic programs, and discover scholarships to kick-start your journey in agriculture and related STEM fields.

Agriculture, Natural Resources & STEM Mobile Lab Rotations

Step into the world of innovation and discovery! STEM Labs give you the chance to explore real-world challenges in agriculture, food, and natural resources through interactive, hands-on experiences.

2025-2026 STEM Challenge

Through a Design Challenge, MANRRS is encouraging students grades 8-12 to THINK GLOBALLY AND ACT LOCALLY. The challenge invites students to consider global innovations while examining local trends and practices to develop solutions that meet the needs of their communities. Students will have the opportunity to pitch their ideas to their peers and a panel of judges during the Junior MANRRS Symposium!

JUNIOR MANRRS PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Daily Curfew: 10:00 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

- 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM Junior MANRRS Kick-Off
- 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Opening Reception
- 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Opening General Session

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

- 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM Welcome Breakfast
- 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM Morning Check-In
- 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM Junior MANRRS Contests
- 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM Service Project
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Workshops
- 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM Career Expo Prep Workshop
- 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM Chapter Advisor Appreciation Reception
- 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM Student Box Lunch
- 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM STEM Challenge
- 2:45 PM - 4:30 PM Career Expo

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

- 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM Breakfast
- 8:00 AM - 8:20 AM Morning Check In
- 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM STEM Lab Rotations
- 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM Symposium Closing
- 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM Golden Awards Brunch
- 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Junior MANRRS College Showcase
- 7:30 PM - 8:30 PM Gala Dinner

FRIDAY, APRIL 10**Session A Workshops
10:00 AM–11:00 AM****A1) Sustainable Futures: Leveraging Agri-tech and Community Leadership in Natural Resource Management**

Sustainability in agriculture and forestry is not just about conserving resources—it is about building resilient communities and preparing the next generation of leaders to adapt to global challenges. This interactive workshop explores practical strategies and innovative tools for advancing natural resource management, with a focus on agriculture, forestry, and environmental stewardship. Participants will engage with real-world case studies from Ghana and beyond, examining how agri-tech solutions, education, and leadership can drive sustainable outcomes. Through collaborative discussions, problem-solving activities, and action planning, attendees will learn how to integrate sustainability principles into their academic, professional, and community contexts. By the end of the session, participants will walk away with practical insights, new leadership skills, and actionable strategies to promote responsible resource use, climate resilience, and community empowerment in their own spheres of influence.

A2) From Class to Community: Cultivating Entrepreneurial Mindsets in STEM and Agriculture

As the workforce and community meets the needs to evolve in the 21st century, students and professionals must be equipped with entrepreneurial skills that go beyond string business, they must learn how to think creatively, problem solve and apply innovation in any field. This is an interactive workshop and group brainstorming. This session will explore how entrepreneurship intersects with STEM education, agriculture, and sustainability to create opportunities for personal and community growth. Attendees will discover how to:

- Integrate entrepreneurial practices into STEM and agricultural pathways
 - Use Community based projects to drive student engagement and leadership
 - Transform ideas into viable ventures that sustain both personal income and community impact.
- Participants will leave with a toolkit of strategies to support students and professionals in leveraging their talents to create innovation driven solutions in agriculture, sustainability and STEM related field

**Session B Workshops
11:00 AM–11:50 AM****B1) Network Like A Pro: Know the Company, Ask the Right Questions**

Want to impress at the Opportunity Fair? In this fun and fast-paced workshop, you'll team up with peers to explore real companies coming to the fair. You'll research what they do, what jobs or internships they offer, and what skills they're looking for. Then, your group will give a short presentation to share what you learned—and get tips on how to talk to company reps with confidence. Come curious. Leave confident. Be ready to shine!

B2) Harvest Heros

Discover how youth can lead the way in agricultural literacy through Harvest Heroes, an interactive board game and learning experience created by Virginia State University Cooperative Extension. In this hands-on workshop, attendees will play the game, explore real-world food system challenges, and experience how teens serve as peer facilitators to teach younger youth about agriculture. Through storytelling, teamwork, and friendly competition, participants will see how trained teen ambassadors are using Harvest Heroes to build leadership, confidence, and curiosity about careers in agriculture and food systems. Join us for a fun, youth-led adventure that blends learning, leadership, and play—where every participant becomes a Harvest Hero!





JUNIOR MANRRS CONTESTS

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: Monetary Award and a certificate
- 2nd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate
- 3rd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate

Junior MANRRS Chapter of the Year Award Sponsored by Purdue University

The Junior 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.

Awards:

- National Winner: Monetary Award and trophy
- 2nd Place Winner: Monetary Award
- 3rd Place Winner: Monetary Award

Junior MANRRS Prepared Speech

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: Monetary Award and a certificate
- 2nd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate
- 3rd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate

Junior MANRRS Impromptu Public 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: Monetary Award and a certificate
- 2nd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate
- 3rd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate



THURSDAY, APRIL 9

Annual Investors Appreciation Luncheon

1:00 PM–2:30 PM

The MANRRS Investors Appreciation Luncheon is an invitation-only event dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the valued supporters and partners whose investments strengthen the MANRRS mission and impact.

National Student Competitions

2:00 PM–5:00 PM

- MANRRS Bowl
- Impromptu Public Speaking
- Undergraduate Oral Research Division I
- Graduate Oral Research Division I
- Undergraduate Oral Research Division II
- Graduate Oral Research Division 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. You will receive resume critiques and set yourself up for success with mock interviews.

Opening Reception

5:00 PM–6:00 PM

General Session

6:00 PM–7:30 PM

Join us as we kick off the anniversary celebration of MANRRS 40th Annual Training Conference and Career Expo, commencing with this year's Opening General Session.

MANRRS Presidents Reception

8:00 PM–10:00 PM

Join us for the President's Reception—an inclusive celebration open to all conference attendees. Hosted by the MANRRS President, this event sets the tone for an inspiring conference experience with opportunities to connect, meet fellow attendees, and enjoy an evening of community, networking, and shared excitement for the conference ahead.



FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Breakfast of Champions

7:30 AM–8:30 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.**

Non-Competitive Poster Display

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Membership Business Meetings: Graduate, Professional, and Undergraduate

9:00 AM–10:30 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–11:30 AM

National Student Contests

11:00 AM–1:00 PM

- MANRRS Bowl Semi-Finals & Finals
- Improptu Public Speaking
- Business Pitch
- Research Review
- 3-Minute Thesis

Career Expo Box Lunch

11:30 AM–1:00 PM

Career Expo

12:00 PM–5:00 PM

The Career Expo is the ideal space for students and professionals to connect with representatives from government, industry, and academia. It's a great opportunity to network, build relationships, and explore potential internships or job openings. Some employers will even conduct on-the-spot interviews. Whether you're a freshman, senior, or a professional seeking a career change, be sure to bring your resume, business cards, and your ambition!

Advisor Appreciation Reception

12:00 PM–1:00 PM

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

MANRRS POP-UP SHOP

Shop MANRRS store for the latest attire and gifts. **Cash is not accepted.**

SHOPPING HOURS:

Thursday, April 9: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Friday, April 10: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday, April 11: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM





SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Continental Breakfast

7:30 AM–8:00 AM

Workshops

8:00 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 full conference attendees.

Networking Break

2:00 PM–2:30 PM

National Leadership Forum and Business Meeting

2:30 PM–4:30 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.

MANRRS Awards Gala

7:00 PM–8:30 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, APRIL 11

Session A Workshops 8:00 AM–8:50 AM

A1) Resume 101 (Roundtable)

Perfect your resume! Ready to make your resume stand out? This hands-on workshop, led by professionals from across Corteva's sectors, including HR, recruiting, and hiring managers—will guide students through the essentials of crafting a strong, industry-ready resume. Participants will receive a resume template prior to the session and should arrive with a printed copy in hand. During the workshop, students will receive personalized feedback and practical tips to strengthen their resumes and better showcase their skills.

A2) How to be a S.T.A.R

Want to stand out in your next interview? In this interactive you'll hear from real industry leaders on how to ACE your next interview. Attendees will focus on the Situation, the Task, the Action and the Result when answering behavioral interviewing questions to help you craft strong, story-based answers to common interview questions. By the end of the workshop, you'll be ready to understand career paths, build your own STAR interview responses, and ask smart questions that show you're prepared and confident.

A3) Innovation Forward: Entrepreneurship and Research in Action

This workshop is designed to inspire and equip college students with essential entrepreneurship skills while showcasing the power of research as a catalyst for innovation. Participants will engage in hands-on activities, collaborative problem-solving, and dynamic discussions led by experienced entrepreneurs, MANRRS alumni, and faculty advisors. By connecting creativity, strategy, and scientific inquiry, this session empowers future leaders to turn ideas into impactful ventures within agriculture and related sciences.

A4) Future-Proof Farming: How Food Waste Can Feed Tomorrow's World

What if the next agricultural breakthrough isn't a new crop, but what we're throwing away? This workshop explores how food waste can be transformed into powerful solutions for soil health, crop productivity, and community food security. Through real-world case studies and rapid group brainstorming, participants will discover how yesterday's scraps can drive tomorrow's farms, cutting greenhouse emissions, restoring soil, and feeding more people with fewer resources.

A5) Financial Literacy Skills

Agriculture is a capital-intensive industry, and financial fluency is essential at every stage of a professional's journey. This interactive workshop—led by experienced experts from the lending and agribusiness sectors—equips participants with the knowledge and tools to make informed, strategic financial decisions. Through real-world examples and practical insights, attendees will explore how financial choices impact short-term performance and long-term sustainability across agricultural enterprises. From managing budgets and investments to evaluating credit opportunities and capital needs, participants will gain a clearer understanding of how to communicate effectively with financial institutions, assess risk, and strengthen business operations.

A6) Officer-to-Officer: A Strategic Roundtable for Chapter

This exclusive session is designed for MANRRS chapter officers: Presidents, Vice Presidents, and Executive Board members, to engage in open, strategic dialogue. Through structured peer-to-peer exchanges, attendees will share best practices, tackle common challenges, and co-develop leadership strategies to elevate chapter performance. This officer-only space fosters transparency, collaboration, and actionable insights for stronger chapter impact.

Session B Workshops 9:00 AM–9:50 AM

B1) Maximizing Your Professional Growth: Leveraging LinkedIn Learning (Roundtable)

In today's competitive job market, continuous learning and a strong professional presence are essential for career advancement. This interactive workshop will guide students through the powerful features of LinkedIn Learning, a leading platform offering thousands of courses across diverse fields. Attendees will learn how to effectively use LinkedIn Learning to acquire new skills, showcase their certifications on their LinkedIn profiles, and strategically build their personal brand. Through a hands-on activity, participants will explore course recommendations tailored to their career goals, create personalized learning paths, and practice integrating their learning achievements into their professional profiles.

B2) Sustainable Futures: Leveraging Agritech and Community Leadership in Natural Resource Management

Sustainability in agriculture and forestry is not just about conserving resources—it is about building resilient communities and preparing the next generation of leaders to adapt to global challenges. This interactive workshop explores practical strategies and innovative tools for advancing natural resource management, with a focus on agriculture, forestry, and environmental stewardship.

Participants will engage with real-world case studies from Ghana and beyond, examining how agritech solutions, education, and leadership can drive sustainable outcomes. Through collaborative discussions, problem-solving activities, and action planning, attendees will learn how to integrate sustainability principles into their academic, professional, and community contexts. By the end of the session, participants will walk away with practical insights, new leadership skills, and actionable strategies to promote responsible resource use, climate resilience, and community empowerment in their own spheres of influence.

B3) Advocacy 101 – How to Conduct a Hill Visit

Whether you are visiting your state legislature or Capitol Hill, policy development thrives through engaged citizens raising their voices to their representatives. This engaging panel will walk through the importance of being an engaged constituent, how to schedule visits with your members of Congress, and how to approach a meeting for effective engagement. These speakers welcome a dialogue and bring the perspective of both a seasoned policy professional and first-time DC visitors to unpack the case study of their congressional visits during Advocacy 101.

B4) AI in Action: Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders with Artificial Intelligence Skills

This workshop will introduce attendees to the core concepts of AI, explore its current applications in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences, and provide practical activities to build essential skills. By fostering digital literacy and innovative thinking, this session will prepare participants for a rapidly evolving professional landscape.

B5) Brand YOU: Standing Out and Building Influence

Technical skills may open doors, but visibility, credibility, and influence determine how far you go. For young professionals in STEM, building a personal brand is the key to being recognized for your competence and chosen for opportunities, not as a token of diversity, but because your unique strengths and perspectives set you apart. This workshop reframes personal branding as a leadership strategy rooted in authenticity and confidence.

B6) MANRRS Quarter 4 Advisor Meeting

The Chapter Advisor Workshop is a professional development session designed to strengthen advisor engagement and support chapter success. It provides tools, best practices, and peer collaboration opportunities to help advisors effectively guide their MANRRS chapters. The workshop also highlights upcoming initiatives, resources, and strategies for fostering leadership and sustainability.

Session C Workshops **10:00 AM–10:50 AM**

C1) MANRRS 2.0: Rebranding the Movement

As MANRRS celebrates 40 years of impact, we are boldly stepping into a new chapter—one that honors our legacy while advancing our mission in today's evolving landscape. Join this interactive session to learn about the MANRRS 2.0 rebrand. Attendees will explore messaging, visual identity, and strategies to strengthen how MANRRS is represented in communities, campuses, and companies nationwide. Participants will have the opportunity to share feedback, engage in discussion, and help shape how MANRRS tells its story for the next 40 years.

C2) Rooted in Sustainability: Building Inclusive Supply Chains from Soil to Shelf

This collaborative workshop between Ardent Mills and BrightMa Farms explores how sustainability and inclusion can coexist to create thriving supply chains that benefit people, communities, and the planet. As agriculture faces increasing environmental and social challenges, the future depends on how we build systems rooted in belonging, ensuring that diverse farmers, suppliers, and innovators have a seat at the table. Through an interactive conversation, participants will learn how BrightMa Farms' regenerative farming practices and Ardent Mills' inclusive sourcing strategies are advancing shared goals for sustainability, innovation, and community impact.

C3) From Options to Opportunities: Navigating Career Decisions & Building Your Path

There's more to building a career than just landing the "right" job or internship—sometimes, it's the little things no one tells you that make all the difference. This session will uncover the often-overlooked factors in making job and internship decisions, from understanding what really matters in a compensation package to recognizing your own preferences and pressures. You'll learn how to turn internships into full-time opportunities and discover practical ways to build your career and personal brand—on your own terms—after you start your first job.

C4) From Campus to Corporate: Thriving in Your First Role

This workshop is designed for students who have recently secured internships or full-time roles. Transitioning from college to the corporate world can be both exciting and overwhelming. This session will equip attendees with the essential tools to navigate their new professional environment with confidence and clarity. Participants will hear directly from industry employees who once stood in their shoes new to corporate life and eager to succeed.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Workshop Session C

10:00 AM–10:50 AM

C5) Career Reset: Navigating Change, Growth, and Opportunity

This workshop is designed specifically for first-generation professionals navigating early-career challenges and transitions. Whether you're in an entry-level role, facing layoffs, or experiencing shifts in your industry, this session offers space to pause, reflect, and reframe your career journey as a reset rather than an endpoint. This workshop also emphasizes community, connecting with peers who share similar experiences, providing encouragement, and building networks for support and opportunity.

C6) Fueling the Mission: Strategic Fundraising for MANRRS Chapters

Strong chapters are built on sustainable resources and creative fundraising. In this interactive session, MANRRS Leadership will share practical tools and proven strategies to help chapters fund their programs, events, and community impact. Participants will learn how to identify potential sponsors, build long-term partnerships, and design fundraising plans that align with MANRRS' mission and values. Whether your chapter is just getting started or ready to grow its financial base, this workshop will equip you with actionable ideas to fuel your mission and your future success.

Session D Workshops

11:00 AM–11:50 AM

D1) 21st Century Skills

In today's rapidly evolving workforce, technical expertise alone is not enough to excel — adaptability, collaboration, and innovation are key. Join Syngenta for an interactive workshop designed to help members strengthen essential 21st century skills that drive success in the agricultural and STEM industries. Through engaging discussions and real-world scenarios, participants will explore how critical thinking, communication, digital fluency, building your brand and inclusive leadership can help them navigate complex challenges and stand out in a competitive, global marketplace. Real industry professionals will share insights from their own career journeys, highlighting how these skills are shaping the future of sustainable agriculture and the next generation of diverse leaders.

D2) From Farm to Fork: Feeding the Future Through Meat Science

Curious about where your MANRRS journey could lead in the food industry? Discover how science, innovation, and leadership drive the global protein sector forward. Join industry leaders from across the meat and alternative protein landscape as they share insights into emerging technologies, sustainability practices, and career pathways shaping the future of food. This interactive session will feature personal career stories, hiring insights, and practical tips for success in an industry vital to global food security. Participants will explore how their disciplines—from animal science to business to engineering—connect to feeding a growing world.

D3) Professional Associations and Your Career

Professional and scientific associations play an important role in many facets of career development AND leading their respective industries. For students, career development programs, job searches, leadership development and roles, and presenting on research are just some of the benefits. In addition, associations support broader programs, science policy, publishing, certification, and more. Join us to learn why it is important to include associations in your career development plans!

D4) Financial Literacy Skills

Urban agriculture is more than just growing food in Agriculture is a capital-intensive industry and strong financial skills are critical. This interactive workshop, led by experienced professionals from the lending industry, equips students with the essential financial literacy skills needed to succeed both personally and professionally in agriculture-related careers. Students will gain a practical understanding of key financial concepts. Through real-world examples participants will explore how financial decisions impact both short-term success and long-term sustainability in agriculture. Whether you're managing student loans, preparing for your first equipment purchase, or planning to return to the family farm, this session offers valuable tools and knowledge to help you make informed financial decisions.

D5) The Transformation of Me

Life is a journey filled with unexpected twists and turns, with the greatest reward being growth and self-discovery. This session tackles topics such as defining personal experiences, letting go of limiting beliefs, and embracing one's authentic self. Listeners will have the opportunity to explore the moments that have shaped them, and discover what inspires personal transformation within them. Equipped with a new outlook on life, they'll feel empowered to break free from self-imposed limitations. Through thoughtful reflection and practical insights, participants will gain a deeper understanding of themselves and feel empowered to tap into who they are meant to be.

D6) College Recruiting 101: Building Confidence & Career Readiness

This session, led by employees from Land O'Lakes, offers a comprehensive, interactive approach to preparing chapters for the college recruiting process. Designed to build confidence and career readiness, the session includes targeted workshops on career fair planning, elevator pitch development, resume writing, and mock interviews. Attendees will engage directly with industry professionals, gaining firsthand insights into what recruiters look for and how to stand out in competitive hiring environments.



WORKSHOPS



THURSDAY, APRIL 9

MANRRS Contests

2:00 PM-5:00 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Graduate Student Meeting

9:00 AM-10:30 AM

MANRRS Contests

11:00 AM-1:00 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 11 GRADUATE STUDENT SUMMIT

7:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Welcome Breakfast

7:30 AM-8:00 AM

Workshop I: Advising Your Academic Advisor

8:40 AM-9:30 AM

In “Advising Your Academic Advisor,” graduate students have the opportunity to learn when to step in and when to speak up for themselves. Students will strategize and create plans that inspire healthy conversation and forward progression in their relationship with their academic advisor. Tips and tricks will be given to attendees. By the end of the workshop, students will be more knowledgeable about how to manage difficult advisor relationships and make the best of them.

Workshop II: Post Graduation Preparation: The First 90 Days

9:40 AM-10:30 AM

Publish or Perish: A fear that graduate students face. In this workshop, attendees will learn what to expect when publishing post-graduation and what challenges they will face. Strategies for success will be given, and students will be able to hear firsthand from those who have published or are in the process of doing so. Students will leave the workshop with an understanding of what is expected of them in order to successfully publish and begin their postgraduate journey.

Workshop III: Growing Stronger Proposals: Strengthening Grant Proposals Through Innovation and Impact

10:40 AM-11:30 AM

Securing federal grant funding is highly competitive, with agencies prioritizing proposals that demonstrate novelty, innovation, and meaningful impact. While many researchers believe their ideas are unique, few thoroughly examine existing literature and funding trends to confirm this.

This workshop provides practical strategies to help participants effectively communicate the innovative aspects of their research. It also emphasizes how proposals can broaden participation by expanding educational and research opportunities for students from diverse backgrounds, especially those with limited access to advanced scientific resources.

Learning Objectives:

- Define the research gap or problem
- Articulate the novel contribution
- Demonstrate innovation
- Show potential for impact
- Provide evidence of feasibility
- Align with funding priorities

Participants will complete a structured worksheet to identify and express the innovative elements of their research. This hands-on activity supports the development of compelling proposal narratives that align with funder expectations and promote inclusive participation in science.

To maximize the session’s value, participants are encouraged to bring a current or past Request for Applications (RFA) relevant to their research. Attendees may also sign up for free one-on-one technical assistance with experienced grant writers and support staff.

Closing Session

11:30 AM-11:50 AM

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Professional Meeting

9:00 AM–10:30 AM

Chapter Advisor Appreciation Reception

12:00 PM–1:00 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

8:00 AM–8:50 AM

Chapter Advisors' Meeting

A5) Financial Literacy Skills

Agriculture is a capital-intensive industry, and financial fluency is essential at every stage of a professional's journey. This interactive workshop—led by experienced experts from the lending and agribusiness sectors—equips participants with the knowledge and tools to make informed, strategic financial decisions. Through real-world examples and practical insights, attendees will explore how financial choices impact short-term performance and long-term sustainability across agricultural enterprises. From managing budgets and investments to evaluating credit opportunities and capital needs, participants will gain a clearer understanding of how to communicate effectively with financial institutions, assess risk, and strengthen business operations.

9:00 AM–9:50 AM

B5) Brand YOU: Standing Out and Building Influence

Technical skills may open doors, but visibility, credibility, and influence determine how far you go. For young professionals in STEM, building a personal brand is the key to being recognized for your competence and chosen for opportunities, not as a token of diversity, but because your unique strengths and perspectives set you apart. This workshop reframes personal branding as a leadership strategy rooted in authenticity and confidence.

B6) MANRRS Q4 Advisor Meeting

The Chapter Advisor Workshop is a professional development session designed to strengthen advisor engagement and support chapter success. It provides tools, best practices, and peer collaboration opportunities to help advisors effectively guide their MANRRS chapters. The workshop also highlights upcoming initiatives, resources, and strategies for fostering leadership and sustainability.

10:00 AM–10:50 AM

C5) Career Reset: Navigating Change, Growth, and Opportunity

This workshop is designed specifically for first-generation professionals navigating early-career challenges and transitions. Whether you're in an entry-level role, facing layoffs, or experiencing shifts in your industry, this session offers space to pause, reflect, and reframe your career journey as a reset rather than an endpoint. This workshop also emphasizes community, connecting with peers who share similar experiences, providing encouragement, and building networks for support and opportunity.

C6) Fueling the Mission: Strategic Fundraising for MANRRS Chapters

Strong chapters are built on sustainable resources and creative fundraising. In this interactive session, MANRRS Leadership will share practical tools and proven strategies to help chapters fund their programs, events, and community impact. Participants will learn how to identify potential sponsors, build long-term partnerships, and design fundraising plans that align with MANRRS' mission and values. Whether your chapter is just getting started or ready to grow its financial base, this workshop will equip you with actionable ideas to fuel your mission and your future success.

11:00 AM–11:50 AM

D5) The Transformation of Me

Life is a journey filled with unexpected twists and turns, with the greatest reward being growth and self-discovery. This session tackles topics such as defining personal experiences, letting go of limiting beliefs, and embracing one's authentic self. Listeners will have the opportunity to explore the moments that have shaped them, and discover what inspires personal transformation within them. Equipped with a new outlook on life, they'll feel empowered to break free from self-imposed limitations. Through thoughtful reflection and practical insights, participants will gain a deeper understanding of themselves and feel empowered to tap into who they are meant to be.

D6) College Recruiting 101: Building Confidence & Career Readiness

This session, led by employees from Land O'Lakes, offers a comprehensive, interactive approach to preparing chapters for the college recruiting process. Designed to build confidence and career readiness, the session includes targeted workshops on career fair planning, elevator pitch development, resume writing, and mock interviews. Attendees will engage directly with industry professionals, gaining firsthand insights into what recruiters look for and how to stand out in competitive hiring environments.



Student Contests

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.

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 15, 2026**. 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

The MANRRS Bowl Contest is designed to increase and test the knowledge of collegiate MANRRS members on MANRRS history and topics related to agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. The contest also increases and further encourages regional pride and support of chapters within regions

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)

The Oral Research Presentation Contest allows undergraduate and graduate students to gain exposure and experience presenting their research before an audience. Graduate and undergraduate students will be judged in separate contests. The top ten contestants will be invited to present at the annual training conference and career expo. Students will select the division to which they are submitting their research abstracts for competition.

Awards:

1st Place: Monetary Award and a certificate
2nd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate
3rd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate

6. 3 Minute Thesis

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Contest was developed by The University of Queensland (UQ) to celebrate the exciting research conducted by Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students. The contest was developed to cultivate students' academic, presentation, and research communication skills. The MANRRS 3MT has been adapted to provide this opportunity to all graduate student members in good standing within the national organization. The competition supports their capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

Awards:

1st Place: Monetary Award and a certificate
2nd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate
3rd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate

7. Business Pitch

Have an idea for a new business or non-profit you would like to start? Then enter the Business Pitch Contest! You will have 5 minutes to describe your idea and why it will change your university or local community. Your business can exist later, but the idea & pitch must relate to agriculture, natural resources, and/or environmental businesses or nonprofits. Think "Shark Tank" meets MANRRS! Instead of asking for investment, our judges will award the top presenter with prize money.

Awards:

1st Place: Monetary Award and a certificate
2nd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate
3rd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate

8. Research Review

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: Monetary Award and a certificate
2nd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate
3rd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate

9. 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: Monetary Award and a certificate
2nd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate
3rd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate

10. Prepared Speech

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, April 5th.

Awards:

1st Place: Monetary Award and a certificate
2nd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate
3rd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate

11. Impromptu Public 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: Monetary Award and a certificate
2nd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate
3rd Place: Monetary Award and a certificate

12. 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, April 5th.

Award:

- 1st Place: Monetary Award and a certificate

13. 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.

Open to collegiate and Junior MANRRS Chapters.

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: Monetary Award and trophy
- 2nd Place Winner: Monetary Award
- 3rd Place Winner: Monetary Award

CALL FOR JUDGES AND SUPERINTENDENTS

As we prepare to celebrate the 40th Annual MANRRS Training Conference and Career Expo in Dallas, TX, we are seeking dedicated leaders to serve as Contest Superintendents. Superintendents play a vital role in ensuring the success and integrity of our competitive events by supporting logistics, coordinating judges, and upholding contest standards. Interested individuals are encouraged to complete the Superintendent Interest Form to indicate availability and commitment found at manrrs.org

Members interested in serving as a contest judge for any of the collegiate or Junior MANRRS contests please register as a contest judge through your conference registration. Contest superintendents will confirm your participation.

For complete contest and judging information, refer to the National Contest Guidelines found on the MANRRS website. Additional questions can be directed to contest@manrrs.org

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

FUNDRAISING GOAL \$40,000

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.

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



A background image of the San Diego skyline with various skyscrapers under a clear blue sky.

SAVE THE DATE
MANRRRS41
MAR 31-APR 3, 2027
SAN DIEGO, CA

A background image of the Birmingham skyline with various buildings and a bridge, set against a blue sky with white clouds.

SAVE THE DATE
MANRRRS42
APRIL 5-9, 2028
BIRMINGHAM, AL



ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE AND CAREER EXPO

www.manrrs.org

#MANRRS40 #WEAREMANRRS