2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Changing the face of Agriculture by linking hands around the world
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Greetings National Society of MANRRS,

What a year it has been, but I would not have traded places with anyone to have the honor of serving as the 2019-2020 National MANRRS President. The National Team was elated to host our membership at the 35th National Conference and Career Fair in Minneapolis, MN, then the pandemic hit. The conference theme this year was “MANRRS: This is Impact”. We have been impacted by a National Pandemic, COVID-19 and Social Injustice within our country. This year has thrown us many curveballs, but the challenges has given MANRRS the opportunity to reimagine the value proposition of the Society. This is Impact reflected the work that MANRRS does to continue to promote academic and professional advancement by empowering minorities in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences.

Every moment I led a meeting, spoke at the podium, met with a sponsor, engaged with a chapter, or gave words of encouragement, I was reminded of the blood, sweat, tears, and dedication the founding members fought through for us to exist today. The overall goal of the society is to continue to build a sense of community and capitalizing on the talent of our membership. This year the goals focused on reviewing programs, policies, and procedures that in turn impact the overall society. MANRRS focused on meeting the needs of our society to ensure that we all strive for excellence in an equitable manner. The National Executive Committee and National Committees engaged with members throughout the organization to assist with accomplishing multiple goals to strengthen MANRRS. These included:

• Increasing funding targeting regional and national programs
• Expansion of Jr. MANRRS programs and chapters
• Develop academic scholarships for students
• Establish a MANRRS Agriculture Policy Fellows Program
• Develop an Emerging Leaders program for alumni and professional members
• Expand access to members for International Abroad Experiences
• Develop Mentoring Program

All goals were met with the exception of expanding access to members for International Abroad Experiences. This goal has been instituted into the five year National MANRRS Strategic Plan. With the implications of COVID-19, this goal was not feasible to meet. The Society will revisit the goal when we know what our new normalcy will look like for the society.

MANRRS would not be in existence if it were not for our members, sponsors, partners, and friends. Thank each of you for your continued support. The society started with a group of pioneers who had an idea. Each of you are innovators and it only begins with an idea and a plan. As we navigate our new normal, think about influencers who have IMPACTed the agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences industry, envision yourself in their roles, and flourish with excellence. Best of wishes and we look forward to cultivating MANRRS for the next 35 plus years.

Thanks,

Antonia Farrell, EdD, MANRRS National President
2019-2020
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

2019–2020 NATIONAL OFFICERS

Antonia Farrell, EdD  
National President

Janeen Abrams, PhD  
National Past President

Sterling August III  
National Treasurer

Maurice Smith, PhD  
National Secretary

Shandrea Stallworth  
National Graduate President

Janeen Abrams, PhD  
National Past President

Irene Lewis  
National Undergraduate President

Ayodele Dare  
Past Undergraduate President

Tiffany Carter, PhD  
Past Graduate President

Brielle Wright  
National Parliamentarian

Ayanna Wright  
Region II Undergraduate Vice President

Davie Riera  
Region III Graduate Vice President

Christien Russell, PhD  
Region III Graduate Vice President

Zachary Brown  
Region V Graduate Vice President

Omar Gonzalez Benitez  
Region VI Graduate Vice President

Theresa Jean Louis  
Undergraduate Parliamentarian

Christian Henry  
Graduate Parliamentarian

2019–2020 REGIONAL OFFICERS

Alexis Doon  
Region I Undergraduate Vice President

Amaja Andrews  
Region II Undergraduate Vice President

Ayanna Wright  
Region II Undergraduate Vice President

Aaron Lewis  
Region IV Undergraduate Vice President

Micah Cuevas  
Region V Undergraduate Vice President

Gissel Neri Corcoles  
Region VI Undergraduate Vice President

Jasmine Scott  
Region I Graduate Vice President

David Riera  
Region II Graduate Vice President

Christie R. Russell  
Region IV Graduate Vice President

Johannah Hamilton  
Region IV Graduate Vice President

Theresa Jean Louis  
Undergraduate Parliamentarian
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

NATIONAL STAFF

Dwane Matthews  
Program Manager

Ashantae Smith  
Business Manager

Ebony Webber, MBA  
Chief Officer of Operations

2019–2020 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Dr. James Anderson  
Ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair

Sterling August  
Finance Committee Co-Chair

Dr. Derris Burnett  
Alumni Committee Co-Chair

Miguel Carlin  
Alumni Committee Co-Chair

Michelle Cole  
Jr. MANRRS Committee Co-Chair

Stephon Fitzpatrick  
Public Relations Committee Co-Chair

Dr. Nicole Hams  
Communication Committee Co-Chair

Dr. Wash Jones  
Ad-hoc Constitution Committee Chair

Koni Patterson  
Membership Committee Co-Chair

John Plummer  
Ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair

Rayricus Matthews  
Public Relations Committee Co-Chair

Shedra Rakestraw  
Finance Committee Co-Chair

Derrick Rhodes  
Jr. MANRRS Committee Co-Chair

Dr. Maurice Smith  
Communications Committee Co-Chair

Brielle Wright  
Membership Committee Co-Chair
Message from Dr. Quentin Tyler, MANRRS Advisory Board Chair

As of April 2, 2020 the National MANRRS Advisory Board had 22 people at our last Advisory Board meeting via Zoom. Additionally, the Fall meeting on September 28, 2019, experienced a 100% participation rate. MANRRS has invited four new members to the board who all accepted and already contributed greatly.

Seven of our Advisory Board members have increased their giving since serving on the board, and one, USDA Animal Care, has been a consistent sponsor and advocate at $60,000 with plans to invite other agencies to the table for the upcoming National Conference.

The Advisory Board members have been intentional in leading MANRRS to additional resources. In particular Land O’Lakes connected MANRRS to Great MSP, Bremer Bank, and a joint memorandum of Understanding with the Grain Elevator and Processing Society (GEAPS).

2019–2020 ADVISORY BOARD
CHANGING THE FACE OF AGRICULTURE BY LINKING HANDS AROUND THE WORLD
OVERVIEW AND HISTORY

MANRRS is a national society that pursues excellence in leadership, scholarship and service. The Society promotes and fosters minority involvement in agriculture, natural resources and related sciences fields. The national society consists of more than 55 chapters located at various colleges and universities throughout the United States. Individual chapter activities, regional events and the annual national conference are designed to develop a Partnership between students in agriculture, natural resources and professionals from academic institutions, government agencies, and private industry. MANRRS establishes partnerships by promoting professional development, networking, and career placement in a nurturing environment.

Membership into the National Society is open to people of all racial, cultural and ethnic backgrounds who support the objectives of diverse and inclusive participation and achievement in agriculture and related sciences careers. Current membership exceeds 2,050 and consists of undergraduate & graduate students located at more than 55 colleges and universities as well as professional men and women from government, universities, and private industry. Honorary membership is bestowed upon individuals, organizations, corporations, institutions of higher learning, and federal agencies that have made significant contributions toward the support of MANRRS.

MISSION:
Empower individuals of underrepresented and diverse backgrounds in agriculture, natural resources, continuing education, peer and professional mentor networks and advocacy leading to access to rewarding economic avenues, accomplishment and advancement.

VISION:
To be the Premier worldwide organization dedicated to career and professional development of a diverse, highly skilled membership, involved in creating opportunities and advancements in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences.
NATIONAL PARTNERS

National Partners demonstrate a true partnership and a long-term commitment of resources to MANRRS’ growth and development. MANRRS functions through the support and goodwill of individuals, businesses, government agencies, foundations, academic institutions, and other non-profit organizations in a collaborative endeavor that benefits all involved. Sponsorship from our National Partners not only supports our Annual Career Fair and Training Conference, but also assists with chapter development activities at both the local and regional levels. This very important sponsorship also supports student officer training and participation in local and regional chapter activities, provides for related student travel expenses, underwrites the cost of chapter room scholarships, and contributes to the operation of the Executive Office. National Partners’ benefits include personal relationships and affiliations built with our numerous chapters across the country.

Thank you for your support of the National Society of MANRRS.

TITANIUM LEVEL ($100,000+)

+FMC LAND O’LAKES, INC.

DIAMOND LEVEL ($75,000+)

Cargill FARM CREDIT

PLATINUM LEVEL ($50,000+)

BASF MERCK APHIS USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

GOLD LEVEL ($25,000+)

AGCO BAYER CHS CORTEVA ELANCO SYNGENTA USDA Agricultural Research Service

*Partners as of April 30, 2020
REGIONAL CLUSTERS

The MANRRS Regional Cluster Meetings are held from September to November. The Regional Clusters serve as the organization’s fall premiere recruiting events. Each cluster features an Opportunity Fair, Mock Interviews, Student Competitions, Alumni Mixer, and professional and leadership development for student and professional attendees. The goal of the cluster meetings is to encourage diversity and pluralism and promote the development of those leadership skills that will prepare our members for a thriving future in the agricultural, natural resources and related sciences.

We seek to provide strategies and techniques that will prove effective for member professional development and advancement in today’s work environment. MANRRS hopes to achieve this goal by collaborating with our corporate, government and university partners to offer seminars that will provide a guide for their future success.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Total Attendees: 650 | Number of Exhibitors: 55

- Region I hosted by Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, VA November 1-2, 2019, 176 attendees
- Region II/III in Atlanta, GA September 27-29, 2019, 223 attendees
- Region IV in Oklahoma City, OK October 4-6, 2019, 102 attendees
- Region V hosted by University of Wisconsin Madison, 163 attendees
- Region VI hosted by Cal Poly San Luis Opisbo, 96 attendees

REGIONAL CLUSTER TESTIMONIAL:

Julie Williams-Warren, a grad student in agricultural education, was an agronomy intern with Land O’Lakes this summer after sharing her resume at the 2019 Region I Cluster hosted by Virginia Tech. The internship resulted in a job offer after graduation.
REGION I CONTEST WINNERS

Elevator Speech Contest
First Place — Jameya Scott, Delaware State University
Second Place — Yasmin Mangum, University of the District of Columbia
Third Place — LaNyla Gayte, The Pennsylvania State University

Impromptu Speaking Contest
First Place — Dallas Cooks, North Carolina A&T University
Second Place — Mary Vandenbosch, Houghton College
Third Place — Stephany Singh, University of the District of Columbia

Lincoln Douglas Debate
Emma Jones (University of Maryland Eastern Shore), Deshawn Matthews (North Carolina State University), and Allison Mulligan (University of the District of Columbia)

REGION II/III CONTEST WINNERS

Elevator Speech Contest
First Place — Juan Carlos Simmonds, Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University
Second Place — Caitlyn McFadden, University of Kentucky
Third Place — Jayan Horton, Fort Valley State University

Impromptu Speaking Contest
First Place — Keshawn Gains, Mississippi State University
Second Place — Washington Cole, Mississippi State University
Third Place — Michala Jones, Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University

Lincoln Douglas Debate
Ariana Martinez (Louisiana State University), Kerri-Ann Henry (University of Florida), and Cassidy Bigham (Kentucky State University)

Three Minute Thesis
*Piloted during the 2019 Atlanta Cluster*
First Place — Grace Fuller, Mississippi State University
Second Place — Gabriel Yulfo, University of Kentucky
Third Place — Makayla Brister, Mississippi State University
REGION IV CONTEST WINNERS
Elevator Speech Contest
First Place — Jordan Bailey, Kansas State University
Second Place — Malia Arpon, Oklahoma State University
Third Place — Jordan Davis, Southern University and A&M College

Impromptu Speaking Contest
First Place — Chris Jennings, Prairie View A&M University
Second Place — Asia Duncan, Lincoln University of Missouri
Third Place — Eric Valenzuela, Kansas State University

Lincoln Douglas Debate
Raymond Thomas (Kansas State University), Devin Ross (Southern University and A&M College) and Russell Thomas (Prairie View A&M University)

REGION V CONTEST WINNERS
Elevator Speech Contest
First Place — Olivia West, Purdue University
Second Place — Vanessa Cahill, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
Third Place — Destiny Cooper, Central State University

Impromptu Speaking Contest
First Place — Paola Beltran, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
Second Place — Najma Muhammad, Michigan State University
Third Place — Nicole McMullen, Ohio State University

Lincoln Douglas Debate
Lamaria Parker (Purdue University), Jasmine Curtis (University of Minnesota), and Roxanne Patino (University of Illinois Urbana Champaign)

REGION VI CONTEST WINNERS
Elevator Speech Contest
First Place — Abenezer Shankute, University of California, Davis
Second Place — Marlen Estrada, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Third Place — Marisol De La Torre, Oregon State University

Impromptu Speaking Contest
First Place — Armando Nevarez, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Second Place — Eben Le Berthon, University of Arizona
Third Place — Chetan Bafna, University of Arizona

Lincoln Douglas Debate
Abenezer Shankute (University of California, Davis), Doel Lee (California Polytechnic State University, Pomona), and David Gurrola (California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)

Interview Contest
*Unique contest to Region VI*
Graduate Category
Carmen Banks — University of California Davis

Undergraduate Category
First Place — Marlen Estrada, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Second Place — Marisol De La Torre, Oregon State University
Third Place — Ignacio Mato Garcia, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
35TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Just three weeks before the 35th Annual Career Fair and Training Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a global pandemic and the President declaring a national emergency. Therefore, for the first time in our history, the MANRRS National Conference was cancelled. The event was co-hosted by Cargill, Land O’Lakes, Minnesota Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Syngenta, and the University of Minnesota.

Not only our Nation but the world battled the crisis as a global community. At the time of publication, more than 200,000 people have passed away due to the virus or symptom related causes.

Two pandemics...

The National Society of MANRRS stands in support of bringing awareness to the injustices and issues impacting various underserved communities. We can assure you nothing matters more to MANRRS than our mission to promote academic and professional advancement by empowering minorities in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. Our platform has not only the privilege but the responsibility to be an advocate against racial injustice, a force for good, and an ally to all.

A platform such as ours has the privilege and responsibility to be an advocate for change. We know these challenging times have made us stronger as an organization, living our mission to promote academic and professional advancement by empowering minorities in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences.
MANRRS PROGRAMS

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

JOHN DEERE SCHOLARS

The John Deere scholarship for college students is a scholarship to identify and award students who have excelled in academics, extracurricular activities, MANRRS, and community involvement. John Deere Scholars have received a $2,000 award provided to each Scholarship Recipient.

The recipients are:
• Adella Lonas — University of Tennessee -Knoxville
• Malcolm Yusuf St Cyr — Iowa State University
• Terrell Turner — Tennessee State University

FARM CREDIT SCHOLARS

Scholarship recipients will receive a total of $2,000, as well as the opportunity to participate in the Farm Credit VIP Track at the MANRRS National Conference. Of the $2,000 award, $1,000 will go to travel expenses for the recipient to attend the conference, and a $1,000 academic scholarship will be applied to the recipient's college tuition, room and board. The Farm Credit VIP Track will provide scholarship recipients with meaningful interactions with Farm Credit leadership and expose students to information about careers at Farm Credit in fields including finance, credit, capital markets, informational technology, marketing, etc. Students will benefit from leadership development and training to better prepare them to find a career in the agriculture industry. This competitive scholarship is in its fourth year. Recipients for 2019-2020 scholarship are:

The recipients are:
• Alejandra Aguilar — Rutgers University
• Malia Arpon — Oklahoma State University
• Kayla Bibbs — University of Tennessee, Knoxville
• Aya Bridgeland — Texas A&M University
• Taylor Carmon — Alabama A&M University
• Destiny Cooper — Central State University
• William Davila — Texas A&M University
• Vanessa Garcia Polanco — Michigan State University
• Evangelina Gomez-Mancillas — Iowa State University
• Clarissa Harris — University of Florida
• Maria Hazeltaker — Kansas State University
• Khailen Hoard — Southern University and A&M College
• Maya Johnson — North Carolina A&T State University
• Adamarie Marquez Acevedo — Iowa State University
• Emily Morgan — Florida International University
• DeAundre Newsome — Florida A&M University
• Ryan Ozzello — Houghton College
• Kyla Peer — Prairie View A&M University
• Kehan Sheng — University of Wisconsin-Madison
• Angelina Soto — North Carolina A&T State University
• Malolm St. Cyr — Iowa State University for Science and Technology
• Mary Vandenbosch — Houghton College
• Jasmine Walker — Central State University
• Kennedy Wimbish — North Carolina A&T State University

Editor’s Note: Due to COVID-19, the MANRRS National Conference was cancelled. The 2019-2020 Farm Credit VIP scholarship recipients will have the opportunity to participate in an amended Farm Credit VIP Program in Fall 2020.

THE FUTURE WE NEED SCHOLARSHIP

The Future We Need Scholarship was created to support students of color pursuing a career in soil sciences, agriculture, or natural resources, with a focus on resilient and regenerative systems. Scholarship funders Leslie MacKenzie and Peter Foster have been volunteers in the Transition Town movement for 10 years, helping their community learn the skills they will need to live with greater resilience.

The two scholarship recipients will be Priscilla Trinh and Naomy Candelaria. Not only did they get glowing recommendations, but they are also doing work in line with the principles and practices of the global Transition movement of which we are a part.
The University of Minnesota chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) were pleased to announce the recipients of two scholarships, valued at $2,500 each.

Priscilla Trinh is an undergraduate student and an intern for EarthTrust and The Institute for the Study of Energy and Our Future (ISEOF). She is studying ways to develop lower-carbon, more sustainable agricultural systems. Trinh is especially interested in developing new cultural narratives. In 2018, Trinh wrote a children’s book titled, “Snapcrash: An Indispensable Lens to Reality,” which was featured by actor Jeff Bridges on his National Geographic website.

Naomy Candelaria is a graduate student in the Applied Plant Science program. Her undergraduate education focused on sustainable agriculture and she is currently researching ways to optimize ecosystem services with summer cover crops in order to improve soil fertility and habitat for beneficial insects. Following graduate school, Candelaria plans to develop an educational agroecological farm in Puerto Rico.

"Every community will have to grapple with the challenges created by climate change. These young people are already doing vital work in the world and we are happy that we could support them in their educational journey so that they can assist so many others in the future. We believe they exemplify The Future We Need."

— Leslie Mackenzie, Scholarship Funder

MANRRS BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The DOI Direct Hiring Authority for Resource Assistant Internship (DHA-RAI) Program is a direct hiring initiative that challenges the BLM to develop an 11-week rigorous summer internship program for current college students or recent graduates, with particular attention to African American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, and Hispanic students. The DHA-RAI Program gives the BLM the opportunity to bring fresh perspectives to the organization while working on specific projects targeted toward hard-to-fill and high demand occupational series.

The relationship between MANRRS and the United States Department of the Interior (USDOI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is a 11-week project based internship program. The Resource Assistant Internship Program is an opportunity to train future talent for specific projects and mission critical, hard-to-fill occupations by recruiting, attracting, and retaining a diverse and talented pool of candidates.

2019-2020 STATS:

| Applications Received: 465 | Interns Placed: 33 | Extensions: 11 | Hired: 9 |

“As a Public Affairs Specialist (Direct Hire Authority Intern) with the Bureau of Land Management Eastern States (BLM-ES), I was responsible for many different tasks to include: writing BLM-ES stories to be released to the public, video and photo editing, and managing the BLM-ES social media sites. This internship gave me the opportunity to expand my experience within my college major (Mass Communications with a concentration in Broadcast Journalism). My co-workers were always very helpful and professional. Together, we completed major projects for BLM-ES in a timely manner. One of my favorite projects was creating and presenting a brochure for our Geospatial Services division to take to future conferences, where they are featured, and pass them out to the general public. Thank you MANRRS and BLM Eastern States for this amazing opportunity!”

— Jasmine Brown
MANRRS PROGRAMS

JR. MANRRS

Jr. MANRRS is the high school component of MANRRS. The program attempts to engage minorities in agriculture at an earlier age and introduce them into the workings of the MANRRS organization.

The objectives for Jr. MANRRS are to:
• Encourage students to have a positive attitude towards academic excellence
• Stimulate enthusiasm about science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and mathematics
• Encourage 7th-12th graders to pursue degrees in agriculture and other related fields
• Increase the number of underserved and underrepresented students attending and graduating from college
• Provide mentorship from collegiate students and career professionals
• Encourage and supports parental commitment to children’s education
• Raise cultural awareness among student

GOING FOR GOLD SCHOLARSHIP
(Sponsored by CHS Foundation)

The Jr. MANRRS Gold Scholarship provides financial assistance of $1,000 to high school students in select Jr. MANRRS and MANRRS Chapters who will be pursuing an ag-related STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) field of study at a college or university within the U.S. The program also encourages students to pursue careers in production agriculture, agriculture business or related STEM fields.

The recipients are:
• Amaya Butler — Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences
• Elizabeth Coll — Rosemary Anderson High School
• Kordell Crusoe — Jennings Sr. High School
• Ashley Fennell — Gwynn Park High School
• Harrison Goode — Atkins High School
• Ezarion Grant — Jennings Sr. High School
• Myaa Greene — Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences
• Reigan Lee — Rosemary Anderson High School
• Nailaj Majeed — Jennings Sr. High School
• Rhyan Moseley — Carter G. Woodson Academy
• Kevin Robinson — Thomas Dale High School
• T’Nijah Ross — Jennings Sr. High School
• Angel Stewart — Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences
• Taylor Thomas — Gwynn Park High School
• Jarvis Williams — Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences
• Harrison Tate McKinley Goode — University of Kentucky

JR. MANRRS INSTITUTES

• Auburn University Jr. MANRRS Leadership Institute
• University of Kentucky Jr. MANRRS Leadership Institute
• University of Maryland Eastern Shore Jr. MANRRS Leadership Institute
• TAPS Program

“The Junior MANRRS scholarship directly impacted my collegiate career because I am able to get the best education in Equine Sciences in the heart of Kentucky. Being from North Carolina, education out of state can be difficult for most students. Receiving this scholarship has aided me because I can make an impact on the African American and minority communities by offering more opportunities in agriculture. The Jr. MANRRS program and University of Kentucky has provided support and exposure to research deeper into the agricultural sector. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent minorities all across the nation with the resources granted for me to attend college.”

— Harrison Tate McKinley Goode
THE POWER OF SHARING AWARD (Raleigh, NC)

Recognized by BASF, the Power of Sharing Award highlights how diverse non-profit organizations throughout the greater North Carolina area are providing vital services, engaging communities, and finding solutions to the state’s biggest challenges.

FOOD | AG | IDEAS WEEK — MANRRS Backstage Pass and Scholarship program powered by GREATER MSP (Minneapolis-Saint Paul, MN)

MANRRS partnered with Make It MSP and Grow North to create an unique experience and Scholarship Program for MANRRS student members. Grow North hosted its 2nd annual industry event, Food Ag Ideas Week and through partnerships, provided scholarships (valued at $2,500) for MANRRS students to attend this event in Minneapolis, MN.

The GREATER MSP Partnership worked with MANRRS to bring collegiate students to Minneapolis-Saint Paul for the second annual Food Ag Ideas Week by Grow North. The “Backstage Pass” provided students with special connections to people and organizations leading the way to the future of food. The trip included:

- Access to two days of Food Ag Ideas, a nationally-leading industry event
- Tours of local facilities and headquarters hosted by organizations such as Target, Land O’Lakes, General Mills and/or the Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Private meals hosted by organizations including Cargill and GREATER MSP
- Exclusive opportunities to network with food & agriculture professionals entrepreneurs, and others working across the field; and
- Through partnerships, provided scholarships for an all-expense paid trip to Minneapolis-Saint Paul (valued at $2,500)

“The Food Ag Week event was an eye-opening experience for me. I was able to travel to a state I had never been to before and never thought of going to prior to this opportunity. I did not really know what to expect, but I knew whatever came from this experience, I would be better for it.

Attending the seminars hosted by Grow North were very insightful to the current events within agriculture and the promotion of diversity and inclusion within the field. Outside of the seminars, our group was also able to visit several agricultural and corporate companies in Minnesota like Land O’Lakes, General Mills, and Target. The company visits were great networking opportunities for our group and gave us the chance to witness the day to day work involved in maintaining a successful corporate company. And lastly, we were able to witness entrepreneurs pitch their small businesses to larger businesses in a competition setting. It was great for me to be in an environment of innovators to gain knowledge from them, learn how they built their businesses, and how to properly pitch those businesses to collaborators. All in all, I am extremely grateful to have been chosen to attend the Food Ag Week event last year. I had a wonderful experience at each of the planned events and surrounded by a wonderful group of individuals to make the trip even more enjoyable. I am thankful to MANRRS for making this experience possible.”

— Bethany Marbury, Tuskegee University
MANRRS NASDA FOUNDATION AG POLICY SUMMIT  
(Washington, DC)

MANRRS partnered with USDA Office of Public Partnership and Engagement (OPPE), FMC Corporation, USDA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Merck Animal Health, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), and with both Congressional Agricultural Committees.

The MANRRS Ag Policy Summit will provide an experiential learning opportunity for underrepresented students to engage in policy and governmental affairs with professionals and organizations in the food and agriculture industries. This program introduced MANRRS students to major policies that lead and influence the fields of food, agriculture, natural resources, and trade. The Ag Policy Summit will demonstrate how policy is shaped, advocacy efforts are conducted, and how governmental agencies, like the USDA, implement and execute policies.

NATIONAL BLACK GROWERS COUNCIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
(Atlanta, GA)

MANRRS supported students to attend the National Black Growers Council (NBGC) Annual Conference.

The NBGC is comprised of multigenerational producers who advocate for the best interests of Black farmers locally, statewide, and nationally. We promote agriculture in the United States and abroad. Their Board of Directors consists of 12 farmers who operate farms in 11 southern states from Virginia to Texas. Collectively, their Board farms nearly 60,000 acres of row crops.

“The inaugural MANRRS-NASDA Foundation Ag Policy Summit was a great experience where I learned about aspects and careers in Agricultural and Food Policy that were unknown to me beforehand. The industry and government professionals that I met provided a clear description of their roles and how everyone works together to create, implement, and advocate for policies. Under Secretary Ted McKinney’s presentation highlighted important aspects of international trade that affect every aspect of agricultural economics. The regional breakout sessions exposed me to how the different regions prioritize and solve key issues. Attending this event gave me a new perspective on the importance of policy in agriculture and introduced me to new careers I would like to pursue. Because of this summit, I pivoted my career focus from strictly agribusiness and marketing to agricultural policy with the goal to become the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.”

— Alexander Robinson
PARTNER VISITS

• FMC
• Merck

MANRRS FMC visit — August 2019

Alexis Doon speaking at MANRRS Merck visit — October 2019
MANRRS STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

MANRRS 2019-2020 EXPENSES

- National Office, Atlanta, GA: $254,015.77 (46%)
- Executive Officers Trainings + Meetings: $20,559.99 (4%)
- Program Scholarships, Chapter Support, and Intern Salaries: $173,404.37 (32%)
- Regional Clusters (I-VI): $109,708.15 (18%)

MANRRS 2019–2020 REVENUE

- Government Sponsorship: $224,500.00 (24%)
- Private Sponsorship: $598,500.00 (64%)
- BLM Revenue: $54,182.98 (6%)
- Membership/Chapter Dues: $16,988.00 (2%)
- Conference Registration: $31,144.62 (1%)
- Sales/Ads: $6,889.07 (1%)
- Misc: $8,124.72 (1%)

Expense Categories
- National Office, Atlanta, GA
- Executive Officers Trainings + Meetings
- Program Scholarships, Chapter Support, and Intern Salaries
- Regional Clusters (I-VI)
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

For 35 years, the National Society of MANRRS has been the trailblazer and catalyst in redefining the narrative, changing the face, and empowering pride within the agricultural industry and related fields. Countless students and professionals share unique stories and experiences of encouragement and accomplishment in regard to their association with MANRRS throughout the years. Our stories and experiences are what bind us together, and they are how we propel each other upward. Amidst the unforeseen events of 2020, including the COVID-19 health pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement, while it seems the year has been a series of crisis, for the most part, the year has been a time of acknowledgment and awakening.

The 2020 vision is not about “what’s next,” the vision is about “what’s already in front of me.” The 2020-2021 National MANRRS theme is: MANRRS: Reclaiming Our Time, Territory, and Triumph. The theme is a query to us as an organization. In your own life and organization, how are you going to work to redefine what gets priority with your highest commodity — time? How will you claim and induct yourself in viable spaces to create change? How will you reclaim your triumph by taking your defeat and turning it into victory? MANRRS: Reclaiming Our Time, Territory, and Triumph is your proclamation to you; it’s our proclamation to each other.

Moving forward, we will continue to put our members first. I am committing to my vision and making the National Society of MANRRS stronger than the day that I took office. My vision will focus on policies, processes, and procedures. (1) Overall Operations (2) Visibility/Marketing of the National Society (3) Technology & (4) Chapter Sustainability as it relates to the impact of COVID 19 and as we return to our respective campuses. As a society, we have to be forward thinkers in this work and prepare the next generation of leaders. In addition to my 2020-2021 vision, I would like to garner your support by giving a charitable donation to support MANRRS. The funds will be used towards the National Officer Development, Chapter Sustainability, and National MANRRS programs such as, but not limited to: the Agriculture Policy Summit, Regional Clusters, and the Jr. MANRRS Leadership Institutes. https://www.gagives.org/organization/Minorities-In-Agriculture-Natural-Resources-And-Related-Sci

I am MANRRS. You are MANRRS. We Are MANRRS. We are MANRRS Strong.

Antonia L. Farrell, PhD
2020-2021 National MANRRS President