

Benefits of C2A3 Membership

1. Access to Federal Partnerships & Funding

- Collaboration with the USDA-NRCS and other federal agencies.
- Opportunities to participate in cooperative agreements and funded research projects.
- Support for developing conservation plans on college farms.

2. Applied Research Opportunities

- Participation in real-world conservation research on campus farms and urban ag facilities.
- Engagement in innovative projects: soil and water quality, pasture renovation, AI in agriculture, precision grazing, urban food systems, and more.
- Research findings shared at national/regional conferences, through curriculum, and with NRCS partners.

3. Workforce Development & USDA Pathways

- Design of career pathways and short-term credentials aligned with USDA jobs.
- Development of national skill standards through the Business & Industry Leadership Team (BILT) process.
- Increased student visibility to USDA employment opportunities and internships.

4. Student Leadership & Internship Opportunities

- **ASPIRE Program** – 6-month student leadership program with webinars, mentorships, and a trip to Washington, D.C.
- Access to networking and internship opportunities.
- Annual travel stipends for students to attend the C2A3 National Conference and USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum.

5. Professional Development for Faculty

- Quarterly webinars, annual conferences, and regional workshops.
- Hands-on training in applied research and technician education.
- Shared resources and curriculum development support via C2A3 staff and website.

6. Curriculum & Program Expansion Support

- Help establishing or expanding agriculture/natural resources programs.
- Guidance in forming local partnerships with NRCS and industry.
- Instructional design support for developing new courses and credentials.

7. National Recognition & Advocacy

- Participation in national conferences and presence in policy conversations (e.g., Farm Bill).
- Collective voice in advocating for ag technician education and funding.

8. Resource & Network Access

- Access to a growing national network of colleges, educators, USDA personnel, and industry experts.
- Use of a centralized platform (AgAlliance.net) to share curriculum, research, best practices, and event info.
- Engagement in a 501(c)(3) nonprofit alliance dedicated to strengthening ag education.

9. Community Engagement & Outreach

- Opportunities to host field days, workshops, and seminars to engage local producers and the public.
- Model programs to promote urban agriculture, sustainable practices, and youth ag education.
- Share successes and findings through media, local events, and academic channels.