

C2A3 Membership – FAQs

1. What is C2A3?

C2A3 is the *Community College Alliance for Agriculture Advancement*, a national network of community colleges committed to advancing agricultural education, applied research, and workforce development—especially in partnership with the USDA-NRCS.

2. Who can become a member of C2A3?

Community colleges with agriculture and/or natural resources programs—or those looking to develop such programs—are eligible.

3. What are the benefits of joining C2A3?

Members gain access to:

- USDA-NRCS partnerships & funding opportunities
 - Applied research collaboration
 - Curriculum development support
 - Professional development & networking
 - National student leadership programs & internships
 - Conferences, workshops, and resource sharing
 - Advocacy opportunities at state and federal levels
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4. What is required of member colleges?

Colleges are expected to:

- Engage faculty and students in Alliance activities
 - Collaborate with local NRCS offices
 - Attend conferences and share findings/resources
 - Help grow regional and national membership
 - Participate in applied research and outreach is highly encouraged, but not required
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5. How is C2A3 funded?

C2A3 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported through a combination of public and private funding sources. Current and prospective funding includes cooperative agreements with USDA-NRCS, support from USDA Rural Development and SARE, grants from the NSF-ATE program, membership dues from partner institutions, and strategic partnerships with businesses and industry leaders.

6. Are there student opportunities through C2A3?

Yes! C2A3 offers a variety of valuable opportunities for students, many of which include travel support or stipends. Students may apply and potentially receive funding to:

- Intern with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 - Participate in the ASPIRE Student Leadership Program
 - Travel to Washington, D.C. for the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum
 - Present research or projects at national conferences
 - Engage in mentorship and take part in local leadership initiatives
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7. What is the ASPIRE Program?

ASPIRE (Accelerating Student Participation in the Rural Economy) is a 6-month student leadership program that includes:

- Leadership training conference
 - Webinars on community development
 - Mentorship from local leaders
 - A hands-on project in their community
 - A trip to Washington, D.C.
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8. How does C2A3 support faculty and staff?

Faculty benefit from:

- Professional development workshops and conferences
 - Webinars and peer collaboration
 - Curriculum and lab resource sharing
 - Opportunities to lead or co-lead research projects
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9. Where can I learn more or apply?

Visit <https://agalliance.net/projects/c2a3-membership/> for the latest information, membership application process, benefits, and FAQ's, or email Cassie Cowles at ccowles@northeast.edu.