



## A LETTER from the PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe the spring semester is already winding down! Things have been a whirlwind here in Clemson—as I'm sure they are for you, too.

We're just two short months away from the **NAADA Annual Conference** hosted by Purdue University! If you haven't **registered (LINK HERE)** yet, I encourage you to do so—an exciting conference is in store. For those attending for the first time, keep an eye on your inbox in May for an invitation to a special Zoom session with some of our seasoned NAADA members. They'll share tips and insights to help you make the most of your first conference experience.

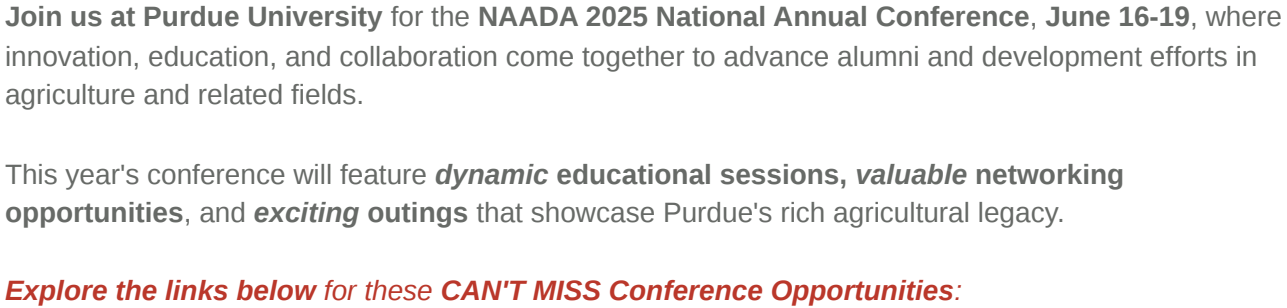
If you haven't had a chance to join one of our many NAADA virtual sessions, now is a great time to jump in! Each track has a virtual meet-up coming up soon (details below). These gatherings are a great way to stay connected, share ideas, and tap into the incredible network NAADA offers across the country.

This time of year is always an emotional one on our campuses—we're saying goodbyes (or "see you soon") to our graduating seniors while welcoming newly admitted students whose excitement is contagious. It's one of my favorite times of the year because it reminds me why I love what I do. Hearing about our students and the amazing jobs and internships they're heading into makes me incredibly proud to play even a small role in their journey. I hope you have a few minutes in the last few weeks of your semester to stop and enjoy these moments.

Wishing you all the best as we head into the final stretch of spring!



Paula Beecher, Clemson University  
2024-2025 President, NAADA



### Join us for another great NAADA 2025 National Annual Conference!

Join us at Purdue University for the **NAADA 2025 National Annual Conference, June 16-19**, where innovation, education, and collaboration come together to advance alumni and development efforts in agriculture and related fields.

This year's conference will feature **dynamic educational sessions**, **valuable networking opportunities**, and **exciting outings** that showcase Purdue's rich agricultural legacy.

**Explore the links below for these CAN'T MISS Conference Opportunities:**

**Conference Tours**

**Conference Agenda**

**Conference Education Sessions & Presenter Bios**

Coach Matt Painter, Purdue Men's Basketball Head Coach for 19 seasons, will speak at the Annual Conference on Wednesday, June 18 at breakfast.

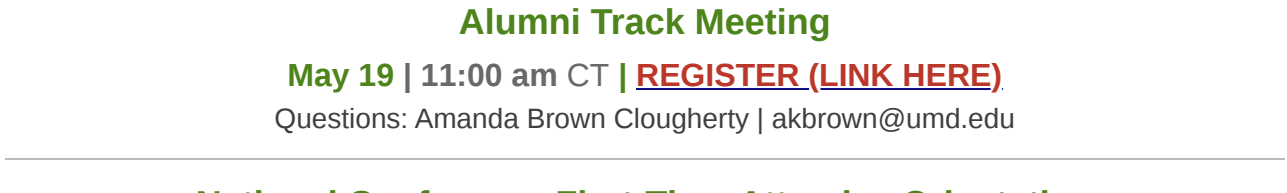
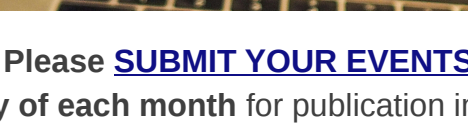
Whether you're a first-time attendee or a returning member, this is the perfect opportunity to connect, learn, and grow with industry leaders and peers. **First-time attendees, make plans to join us on June 3 at 1:00 pm CT for an Introduction & Seminar** - A NAADA Virtual Learning Series Must Do!

### Register for Conference by April 26, 2025 to receive Early Bird Pricing!

- Member: \$680 on or before April 26 - \$780 after
- Student/Volunteer Member: \$650 on or before April 26 - \$750 after
- Non-Member: \$780 on or before April 26 - \$880 after

**REGISTER NOW (LINK HERE)** and get ready for an unforgettable experience!

### COUNTDOWN to NAADA 2025 National Annual Conference



Please **SUBMIT YOUR EVENTS** by the 1st day of each month for publication in Connections.

#### Alumni Track Meeting

May 19 | 11:00 am CT | **REGISTER (LINK HERE)**

Questions: Amanda Brown Clougherty | [akbrown@umd.edu](mailto:akbrown@umd.edu)

#### National Conference First-Time Attendee Orientation

June 3 | 1:00 pm CT | **REGISTER (LINK HERE)**

**Introduction & Seminar - A NAADA Virtual Learning Series Must Do!**

Find out about the Conference Newcomers Buddy System!

Learn what to expect before, during and after the event.

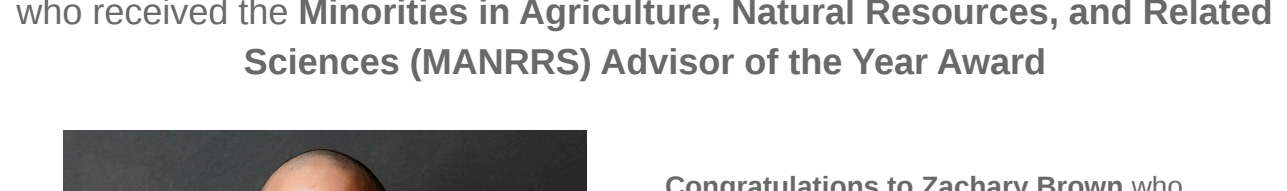
Ask travel questions, what to pack and what to wear!

Explore the dynamic educational session choices and our presenters.

The NAADA Virtual Learning Events are available to all NAADA members.

[You can view recorded events here.](#)

If you need assistance with your login credentials, please contact [memberservices@naada.org](mailto:memberservices@naada.org).



Please share your photos as you are out and about meeting with one another!

Please submit photos, captions and names of those photographed by the 1st day of each month for publication in Connections to [info@naada.org](mailto:info@naada.org).

### Congratulations to Zachary Brown who received the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Advisor of the Year Award



Congratulations to Zachary Brown who received the MANRRS Advisor of the Year Award at the MANRRS National Conference!

This prestigious award is often considered a lifetime achievement for student organizations, recognizing sustained excellence in leadership, service and impactful programming.

Zac commented, "as MANRRS celebrates 35 years at Purdue University, we couldn't be prouder of their continued efforts. Out of more than 1000 student organizations, they've truly distinguished themselves through national engagement, fundraising, community service, and a deep commitment to the Boilermaker experience."

Zachary Brown  
Purdue University College of Agriculture  
NAADA Student Professionals Chair

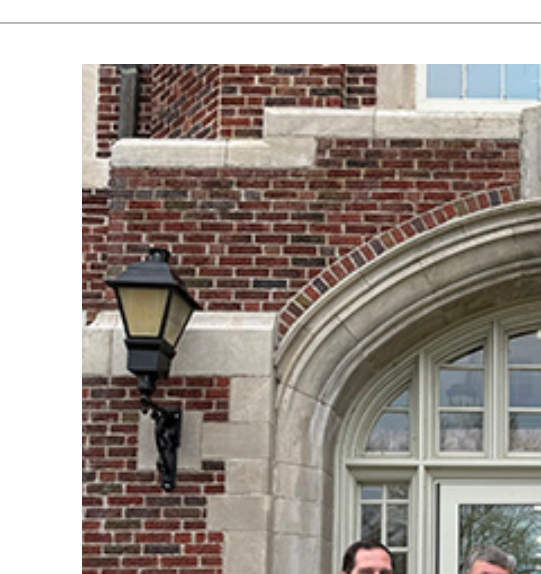
### Michigan State University College of Agriculture & Natural Resources Farm Lane Society



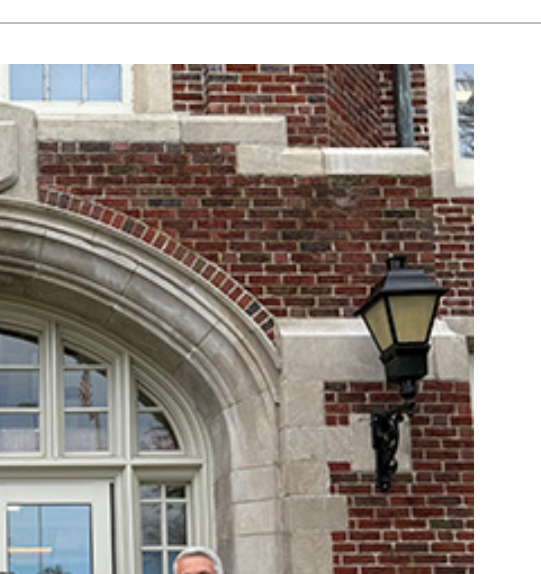
CANR Alumni Director, Aaron Whitford pinning 2025 Farm Lane Society inductee, Stephanie Orweniu.



Former CANR Alumni Board members, Jennifer Whitford, Valerie Wright, and Lisa Woodke.

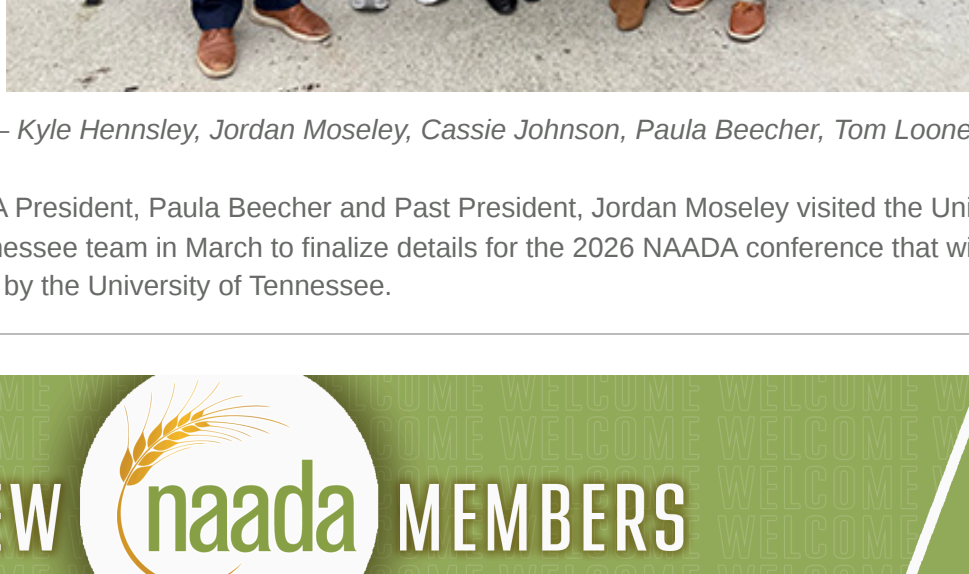


Former CANR Alumni Board members Jennifer Whitford, Valerie Wright, and Lisa Woodke.



Valerie Wright and CANR Senior Associate Director of Development, Brittany Lawrence.

On March 7, Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Farm Lane Society members new and old gathered to network and induct new members. It was a wonderful event, and we're looking forward to continuing to engage with the Farm Lane Society! Melissa Hansen | Michigan State University



L to R – Kyle Hennsley, Jordan Moseley, Cassie Johnson, Paula Beecher, Tom Looney

NAADA President, Paula Beecher and Past President, Jordan Moseley visited the University of Tennessee team in March to finalize details for the 2026 NAADA conference that will be hosted by the University of Tennessee.



### Welcome to our First Quarter New NAADA Members!

If you are a new member and not listed, please email [info@naada.org](mailto:info@naada.org).

Laura Alloway, The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, & Environmental Sciences  
Penny Barkhurst, The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, & Environmental Sciences

Undley Bennett, MU CAPNR Advancement

Robert Cox, Texas Tech University, Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources

Tara Fisher, Iowa State University

Nathan Flatman, Auburn University

Kayla Forder, The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, & Environmental Sciences

Mackenzie Furches, University of Tennessee Foundation, Inc

Kacee Gasper, Texas A&M AgriLife

Keith Harrison, University of Tennessee Foundation, Inc

Sam Hille, Washington State University

Koll Jensen, Deep Springs College

Ann Catherine, Jovett University of Arkansas

Katy Kinker, Purdue University College of Agriculture

Julia Knaggs, The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, & Environmental Sciences

Natalee Kovac, Texas A&M University

James Krotz, Purdue University - Animal Sciences

Amanda Lukacsko, The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, & Environmental Sciences

Kathleen Matz, University of Missouri - Columbia

Kati Migliacchio, University of Florida IFAS and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Ariel Morlan, The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, & Environmental Sciences

Dean Morrison, Clemson CAPLS Alumni Board

Lindsay O'Pry, Texas Tech University, Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources

Hilliary Patterson, Texas A&M AgriLife

Dana Prince, University of Tennessee Foundation, Inc

Kris Read, The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, & Environmental Sciences

John Rice, The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, & Environmental Sciences

Aдриanna Schlaefer, Clemson University-CAPLS

Kaitlyn Schwarzenbach, University of Georgia

Kayla Twyford, University of Arkansas

Marion Welsh, Purdue University College of Agriculture

Marshall Willett, University of Tennessee Foundation, Inc

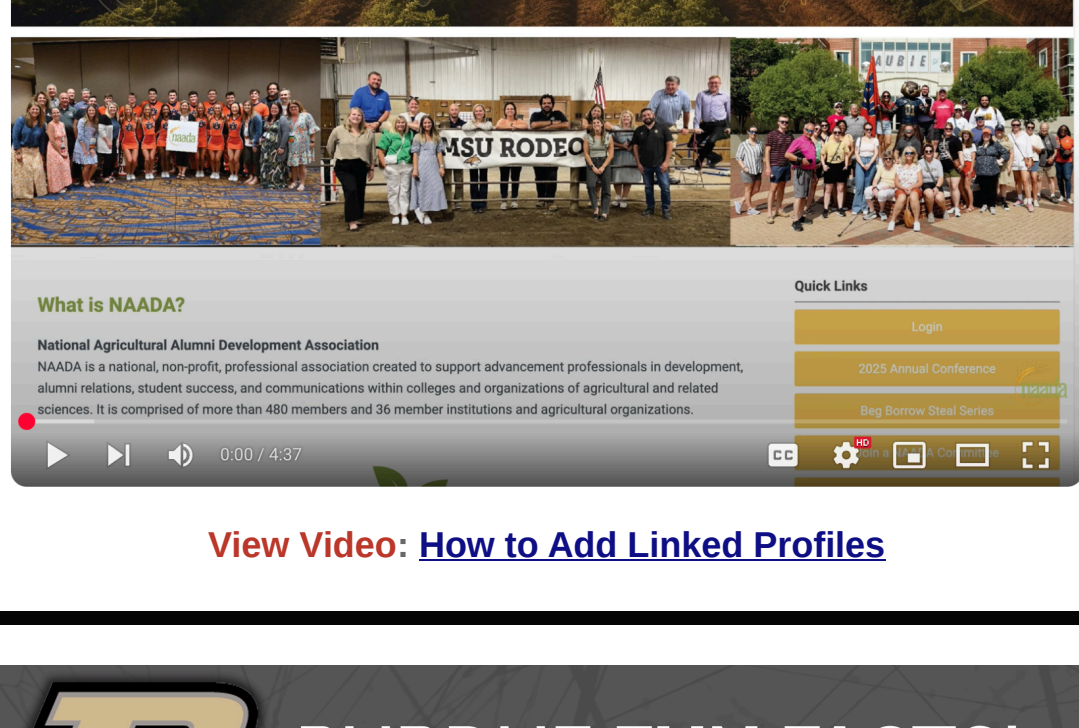
Christine Wilson, Purdue University College of Agriculture

Michele Wilson, University of Tennessee Foundation, Inc

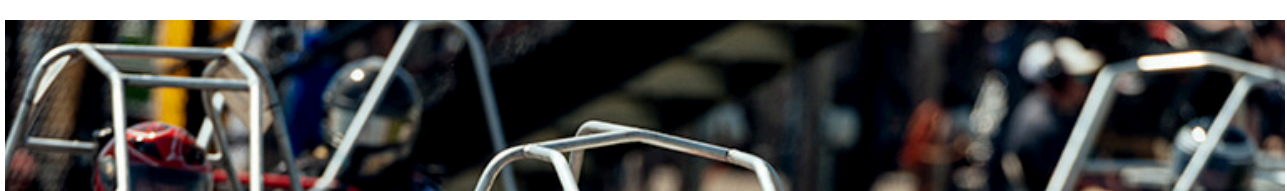
### From NAADA Headquarters

#### VIDEO MESSAGE to KEY CONTACTS:

If you manage your institution's membership in for NAADA, this is an important message on how to add new members and navigate the portal.



View Video: [How to Add Linked Profiles](#)



The Purdue Grand Prix, often called "The Greatest Spectacle in College Racing," is one of the university's most exciting and cherished traditions. First held in 1958, the annual go-kart race was created by a group of engineering students to raise funds for scholarships and to showcase Purdue's deep ties to engineering and innovation. The race takes place on a dedicated track on campus, with teams of students designing, building, and driving their own karts in a test of speed, strategy, and skill. The Grand Prix is a weeklong celebration filled with events, culminating in race day, where thousands of students, alumni, and fans gather to watch the intense competition. Beyond the thrill of racing, the event serves as a reminder of Purdue's collaborative spirit, combining engineering expertise, teamwork, and school pride in a way that has become a hallmark of the university's culture.



The Morrill Act, also known as the Land-Grant College Act, established colleges and universities focused on agricultural and mechanical arts. Which US president signed this act into law?

- A. George Washington  
B. Abraham Lincoln  
C. Theodore Roosevelt  
D. John F. Kennedy

Make your selection and get the answer!

Congratulations to Stephanie Osterthun, Brian McGonigle, Pat Whittington, Julie Obermeyer and Richard Fajardo who were the first five NAADA members to submit the correct answer. The answer was C. As of March 2025, the University of Connecticut had won 11 titles (1995, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016) and is the most successful program in NCAA women's basketball history. In 2025 they added the 12th national title! Visit [this NCAA site](#) to see the full list of championship winners.

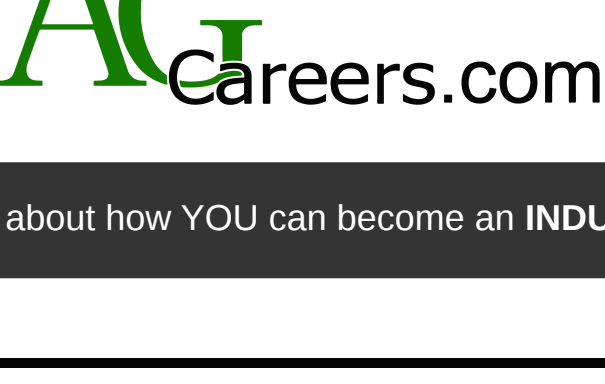


### BECOME AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSOR!

Expand your visibility to current and future agricultural professionals around the nation by partnering with NAADA on our upcoming 50th Anniversary National Annual Conference! A complete listing of levels and benefits is waiting for you to discover inside the [Sponsorship Prospectus](#)!

CONTACT | Austin O'Neill, Sponsorship Committee Chair | [austin.oneill@amsuaf.org](mailto:austin.oneill@amsuaf.org) | 425-346-8891

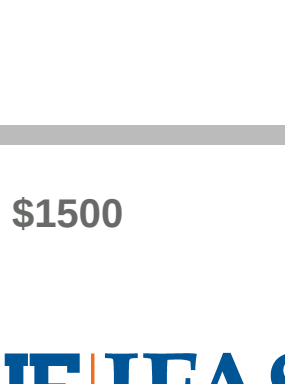
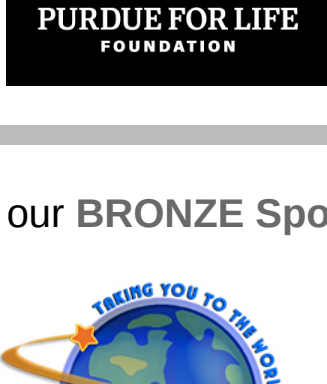
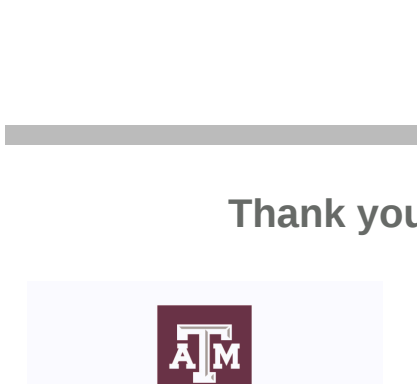
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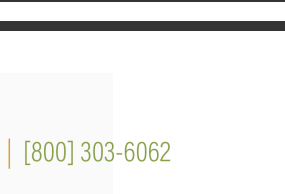
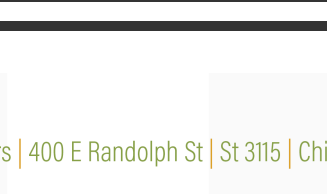
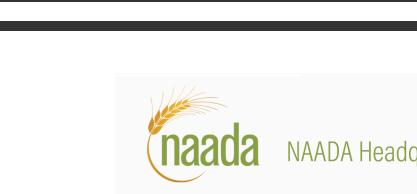
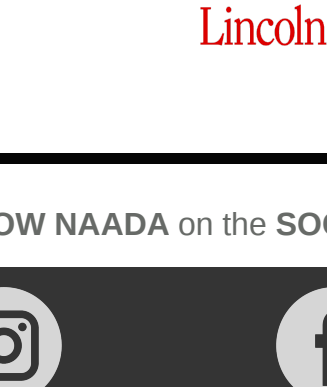
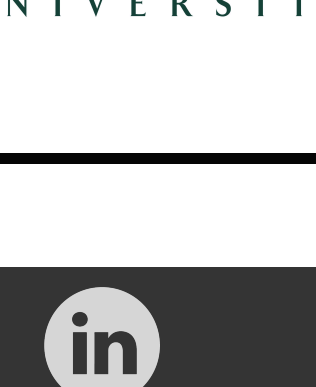
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