



National Association of  
Conservation Districts

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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## Conservation Careers Workshop



National Association of Conservation Districts



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### CONSERVATION CAREERS PARTICIPANTS 2019



National Association of Conservation Districts

The Conservation Careers Program offers current undergraduate college students an opportunity to learn about conservation careers from experienced professionals. These students were selected through a competitive application process and will participate in the workshop during the 2019 NACD Annual Meeting.



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## 2020 Conservation Careers Workshop



Abigail Northrup  
Montana State University



Alexandra Verdeja-Perez  
Purdue University



Brydine Lauro  
Colorado State University



Bryce Buck  
Penn State University



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Georgia Christopoulos  
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The Conservation Careers Program offers current undergraduate college students an opportunity to learn about conservation careers from experienced professionals. These students were selected through a competitive application process and will participate in the workshop during the 2020 NACD Annual Meeting. This NACD program is sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the United States Forest Service (USFS).

## NACD Conservation Careers Workshop



The National Association of Conservation Districts' Conservation Careers Workshop showcases employment opportunities within the National Conservation Partnership, along with other public and private natural resource management and agriculture conservation partners, by providing professional relationship and career development for the future leaders in conservation. The program started with a less structured format in 2017 and was funded through a USDA: NRCS grant. The workshop is held each year during the NACD Annual Meeting in February.

## NACD Conservation Careers Workshop



The Conservation Careers Workshop is unique in that a small group of students are provided the opportunity to build a personal relationship with professionals. Workshop participants will meet possible mentors during presentations and will have field experiences, as well as receptions and meals to network and gain insights into potential career opportunities. 2019 was the first year for this expanded format and had increased USDA: NRCS support for 10 participants.

## NACD Conservation Careers Workshop



2020 Participants during NACD Board meeting

In 2020 the workshop provided an immersive experience for up to 15 highly qualified undergraduate college students and showcased career paths in conservation, agriculture and natural resources management. Attendees learned about career options within the National Conservation Partnership, met conservation professionals and made valuable contacts. The National Conservation Partnership includes the USDA, NRCS, USFS, state conservation agencies and conservation districts from across the United States. Continued funding through the USDA: NRCS and additional funding from the US Forest Service expanded the number of participants to 15.

## NACD Conservation Careers Workshop



Presenters during the sessions were conservation, agriculture and natural resources management professionals from field-work, program management and policy career paths. These professionals shared their career stories and recommendations for developing portfolios. Participants also developed conservation career outreach plans and discussed action strategies to implement career outreach on their campuses. Participants had an opportunity to network with conservation leaders from across the U.S. at this annual event.

## NACD Conservation Careers Workshop



Each Workshop featured local conservation concerns and solutions. Participants also met local landowners, Conservation District Board Members and members of Congress.



Like the NACD Annual Meeting, the 2021 Conservation Careers Workshop was held virtually. 17 Participants joined on the ZOOM platform over three nights. The focus for the 2021 workshop was Forest Management, Restoration and Regeneration. The success of this year's workshop was in large part due to the cooperation of the Louisiana Conservation Partnership.

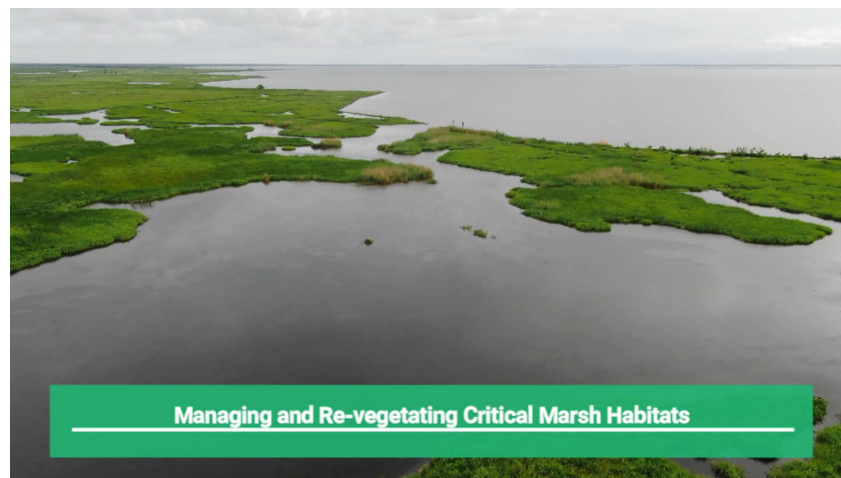




Three “virtual field trips” were developed with the assistance of NRCS- LA, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture, Office of Soil and Water Conservation and Louisiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Each of these videos can be viewed on the NACD YouTube channel at...

<https://www.youtube.com/c/NationalAssociationofConservationDistricts/playlists>



## NACD Conservation Careers Workshop



For 2022 the Conservation Careers Workshop will be expanded through a partnership with Agriculture Future of America into a Sustainability Institute with as many as 75 participants. The 2022 NACD Annual Meeting will be held at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista – Disney Spring Area




Agriculture Future of America (AFA) provides premiere personal and professional development programs to college students and young professionals in agriculture.

These programs address six competencies that AFA and its partners have identified as key skills for agriculture professionals. Programs are divided between the Alliance for young professionals and collegiate programs.

Planning is underway with AFA and the participation of the Disney Properties “Nature Based Solutions” Team for the **2022 AFA + NACD Sustainability Institute.**

# NACD Conservation Careers Workshop



**2022 AFA + NACD Sustainability Institute**  
Sunday, February 13- Wednesday, February 16, 2022  
Orlando, FL  
\*Schedule is subject to change

**Sunday, February 13- Day 1**

3:00 PM **Registration**  
Get registered for the event and meet other student delegates to the inaugural AFA & NACD Sustainability Institute.

4:00 PM **Welcome and Orientation** AFA and NACD

5:00 PM **Kickoff Speaker: What is Sustainability?**  
Description: Hear from our Kickoff Speaker the "30,000 foot view" of how all encompassing the term sustainability really is, where it shows up in our daily lives, and trends, challenges, and opportunities in the near future.  
Objectives:

- Introduce trends, challenges, opportunities in conservation and sustainability efforts from across the value chain
- Provide high-level overview to set expectations for the institute experience

5:30 PM **Sustainability and the Future: Executive Panel**  
Description: Gather insight from executive leaders regarding their opinion of the future of their companies as it relates to sustainability, conservation, and natural resource management.  
Objectives:

- Demonstrate through narrations of personal backgrounds that the path to success looks different for every professional
- Expose participants to diverse opportunities of careers related to sustainability and conservation

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- Provide students with an overview of current industry trends that weigh heaviest on the minds of industry leaders

6:30 PM **Break**

6:45 PM **Dinner with Industry Guests**

8:00 PM **Reflection and Preparation for Day 2**

8:30 PM **Adjourn**

**Monday, February 14- Day 2**

7:00 AM **Welcome & Convention Expo Preparation & Breakfast**

8:00 AM **NACD Annual Meeting- Opening General Session**

10:30 AM **Break**

10:45 AM **Conservation Expo Exploration and Engagement**

12:00 PM **Lunch**

1:00 PM **Conservation Expo Exploration and Engagement**

2:30 PM **NACD Annual Meeting- Breakout Sessions Round 1**

3:30 PM **Break**

4:00 PM **NACD Annual Meeting- Breakout Sessions Round 2**

5:00 PM **AFA Institute Delegates and NACD Board Social Hour**

6:00 PM **Dinner**

7:00 PM **Reflection and Preparation for Day 3**

8:00 PM **Student Activity**

**Tuesday, February 15- Day 3**

7:30 AM **Partner Breakfast**

*Description: Hear from AFA Partner Companies regarding career opportunities and innovative solutions they are bringing to the table regarding sustainability, conservation, and natural resource management.*

8:30 AM **Break**

8:45 AM **NACD Annual Meeting- General Session**

11:00 AM **Break**

11:30 AM **Lunch and Off-Site Tour Preparation**

12:30 PM **Off-Site Tour Visits**

*Description: See real world examples of industry leaders putting into practice innovative sustainability and conservation practices.*

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Objectives:

- Allow students to hear from industry leaders in sustainability, conservation and natural resource management on real world application of practices
- Hear insights regarding challenges and opportunities for implementation of sustainability, conservation, and natural resource management practices
- Discover careers and hear how multiple discipline areas are connected to sustainability

**Tour Debrief and Reflection**- on bus

5:00 PM **Arrival back to Hotel**

6:00 PM **Student Off-Site Dinner**- Disney Springs or EPCOT World Showcase  
Description: Explore Disney Springs or EPCOT World Showcase and choose dinner on your own

**Wednesday, February 16- Day 4**

8:00 AM **Breakfast**

8:30 AM **Career Roundtables: Sustainability and Conservation**  
Description: Students will preference and experience three roundtables to learn more about careers in conservation, sustainability, and natural resources. Two+ professionals in each area sharing their career journey to how they ended up in their current role.

Objectives:

- Illustrate the diverse opportunities in conservation and sustainability
- Expose students to deeper understanding of skills and expertise necessary for various careers
- Demonstrate through narration of personal backgrounds that a path to success looks different for every professional
- Provide exposure to diverse industry concepts, business, people and philosophy through exposure to local, national and international public and private sector organizations

10:30 AM **Break**

10:45 AM **Final Reflection**

11:30 AM **Lunch and Departure**

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2022 AFA + NACD Sustainability Institute  
February 13-16, 2022