Annual Report 2019

MINNESOTA STATE
Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence

Southern Minnesota
CENTER OF AGRICULTURE

A Letter from our Director

Brad Schloesser

Life as we know it in the first two decades of the Twenty First Century are recorded in history. I frequently look back and find the view (rearward) much clearer as one attempts to see forward. At best: a 20:20 view of how things went and what causes and affects resulted is what I hope to find revealed.

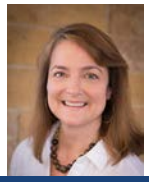
As I stare into the future at the beginning of the Year 2020, one can look forward and rearward and see workforce needs are definitely more of a concern. Clearly, our view reveals that we need more individuals to be aware of the opportunities and engage in agriculture, food and natural resources (AFNR) work. As our population grows, more food is necessary. More meals to nourish and sustain – history confirms – 3 meals-a-day is a contributing factor to our health and well-being. Increased population, more meals, if the meal count rises, additional growing of food is required.

Food is the result of cultivation of the soil, caring for and managing our water resources, raising animals and poultry that provide protein and sustain each and every one of us. Engagement of people in collaborative roles that meet the needs of humans in the agriculture and food arena and simultaneously caring for the natural resources we have been blessed with.

In 2019, the Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence team of staff, students and faculty – engaged in many efforts to sustain people – that has been vividly clear. Some highlights: strategic planning sessions, work-plan execution, collaboration with agencies, businesses and education partners, expo engagement with students, ag industry partners and representatives from high schools, colleges and universities and those serving in elected office seeking to understand and support AFNR needs and champion future and current initiatives. We trained teachers about agriculture, posted on social media platforms, shared presentations, simulated technology and utilized the real-thing to educate and encourage more people for their awareness and recognition of the possibilities. Created career connections, identified resources and connected people that desired to know about AFNR to people that do know and are constantly learning to share what we need to see for a future of nourishment and clarity.

Keeping the eyes on the horizon, maintaining with clarity the messaging and support of a future that we can reflect on with 20/20 vision.

STAFF



Tracy Drash
Program Coordinator

Natalie Compart
Outreach and Recruitment

Shelly Kitzberger
Administrative Assistant

Megan Matthew
Social Media Intern

AGRIBUSINESS SYSTEMS

ANIMAL SYSTEMS

BIOTECHNOLOGY

ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS

Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors is made up of many individuals representing the full spectrum of the agricultural industry. They play a key role in the direction of the Center, program development, workforce training, and continued education. Members of the Board represent the 8 career pathways represented in the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources industry.

Pat Duncanson
Owner, Highland Family Farms,
Chairman

Naomi Mortensen
Vice President of Content Strategy, FLM Harvest

Bob Zelenka
Past Executive Director, MN Grain & Feed Association

Jeff Ward
Prime Pork, Partner

Kent Rodelius
Relationship Manager, Prinsco

Eric Fisher
Director, AGCO Corp

Connie Stokman
President, All American Foods

Jason Gillard
Vice President, Ellingson

Bill Carter
President, Prairie Moon Nursery

Todd Martin
Service Director, Arnold's

Wally Thomas
Vice President, Bremer Bank

Glenn Thuringer
President, Bioverse Inc.

Neal Pasziewicz
Training & Development, Wakefield Pork

Travis Stewart
Vice President of Crop Insurance, Agri-Business Insurance Services

EX Officio

Sarah Dornink
Executive Director, MN Agricultural Leadership Council

Tom Slunecka
CEO, MN Soybean Association

Gena Lilienthal
Ag Instructor, South Central MN Agricultural Science Academy

Nicole Griensewic Mickelson
Executive Director, Region 9 Development Commision

Marc Bullen
Employment Specialist, MN Assistance Council for Veterans

Jill Resler
COO, MN Pork Board

Sam Ziegler
Director, Greenseam

Steve Olson
Past Director, MN Turkey, Chicken & Egg

Patrice Bailey
Assistant Commissioner, MDA

Dr. Zane Sheehan
MN Department of Education, Supervisor of Ag Education

Lucas Sjostrom
Executive Director, MN Milk Producers

PLANT SYSTEMS

POWER STRUCTURE TECHNICAL SYSTEMS

FOOD PRODUCTS AND PROCESSING

NATURAL RESOURCES

OUR Mission

The Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence will align students with the resources of academic institutions and industry to develop and sustain the workforce needs of agriculture in Southern Minnesota.

OUR Vision

The Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence will serve as a dominant force in the promotion of education in agriculture and agricultural careers, aligning colleges and curriculums across the region.

2019 ADVISORY BOARD Strategic Planning

The SACE Team along with the Advisory Board and partner institution representatives participated in a strategic planning session led by consultant Cheryl Glaeser of Achieve TFC. These efforts framed the Center's efforts for the coming year, outlining key information related to the state of agriculture industry sector and key workforce challenges and opportunities.

Through this planning four priority areas were identified as key areas of focus:

- Internships and apprenticeships facilitate placement in industry
- Parents need to be educated as to the opportunities in agriculture
- Recruitment needs to broaden to include an under-represented audience
    - Such as immigrants, women, people of color, military veterans, etc.
- Many youth are attending out of state institutions, we need to focus on the outmigration in our recruitment efforts

Additionally, recruitment for the Advisory Board continued throughout the year. The goal would be to have board members represent the 8 career pathways represented in the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) industry.

PARTNER Institutions

Rochester Community and Technical College

Minnesota West Community & Technical College

Riverland Community College

South Central College

Southwest Minnesota State University

Minnesota State University Mankato

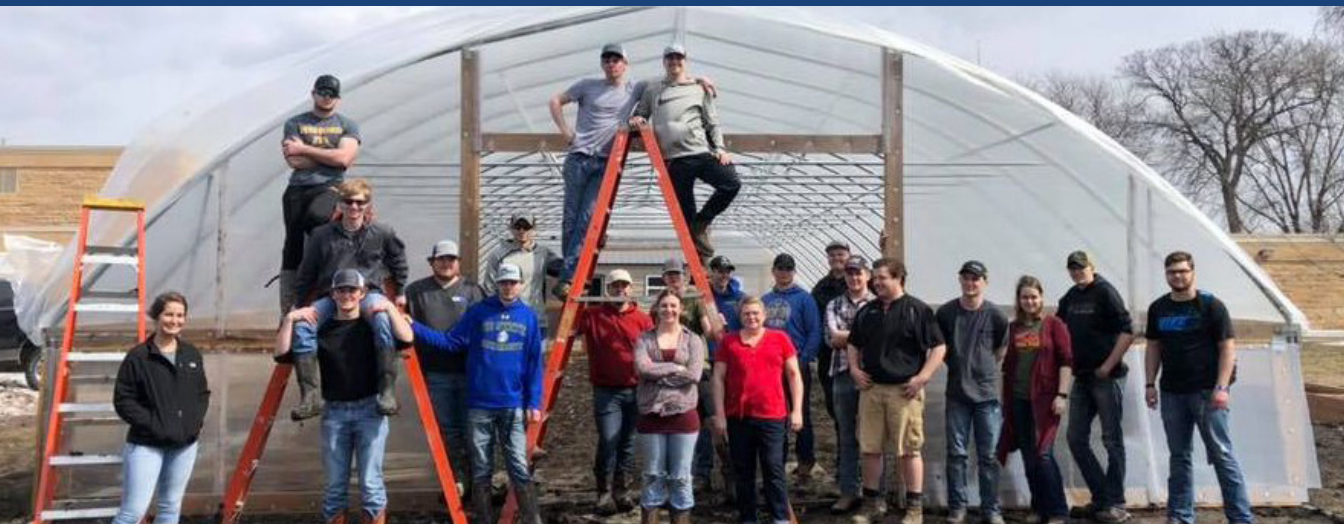
Thought, Leadership, and Innovation

SACE team members serve on more than twelve Advisory Boards to align thought and innovation with industry needs and provide advocacy.

Team members expanded attendance at events and conferences to advocate and continue outreach.

MN Ag Expo
Agrigrowth
MN State Fair
FFA State Convention
Riverland Ag Summit

GreenSeam
4-H Science of Agriculture Challenge
Farmfest
Junior Achievement



Engaging Industry

The Minnesota legislature continues to support both Farm Business Management efforts and those of the Center of Excellence through multiple grants.

MN Agricultural Leadership Council provided **$2,000,000** for Agriculture Challenge Grants.

$250,000 to Support Mental Health from MN Department of Agriculture.

Began work to launch a marketing and communications plan to target military veteran engagement in agriculture.

AgSPARK

1460 FBM students, a 3% increase over 2018, were supported during a tough year in agriculture due to world trade restrictions, commodity pricing, and challenging weather conditions.

GREENSEAM

The Center continued to actively support the efforts of GreenSeam and partnered to launch the State of Agriculture Survey and Report along with many other initiatives.

Rural Mental Health Support

Minnesota State adds an additional rural Mental Health Specialist, Monica McConkey. This additional resource for farm families is being funded by the 2019 legislature's actions to grow mental health resources in Minnesota. McConkey will work collaboratively with current specialist Ted Matthews, the Minnesota Agricultural Centers of Excellence, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and farm industry groups to reach farmers and their families to support them in these times of economic stress.

FARM INFO LINE
1-800-232-9077

MN MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH LINE
320-266-2390

MN FARM & RURAL HELPLINE
833-600-2670, x1

FBM
FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Assist in Meeting Farm Business and Personal Goals

Direct Effective Financial Management

Support Rural Mental Health

Guide Sound Business Decisions

Advise Farm Transition and Succession Planning

Develop Farm Efficiency and Risk Management

Increase Access to Lending Opportunities

Colleges Supporting Farm Business Management

Alexandria Technical College

Central Lakes College

Minnesota West Community and Technical College

Northland Community and Technical College

Ridgewater College

Riverland Community College

South Central College

St. Cloud Technical College

JOHN DEERE

Partnered with Kibble Equipment to introduce technology using the combine simulator.

Inspiring Students

The Engineering and Agricultural Centers of Excellence continued work to deliver the STEAgM CAMP.

Over **50** CAREER FAIRS and CLASSROOM VISITS!

25,300

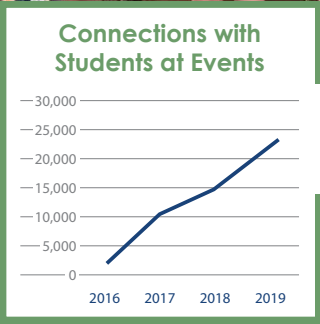
unique interactions with students, parents, teachers, and administrators.

NORTHFIELD WORTHINGTON
ROCHESTER CIRCLE PINES
LAKEVILLE HIGHLAND PARK
ST. PAUL PINE ISLAND
ST. FRANCIS WINONA
HASTINGS BURNSVILLE
ST. LOUIS PARK AUSTIN
ST. PETER ROSEMOUNT
MARSHALL MINNEAPOLIS
MORRIS FAIRMONT
APPLE VALLEY MANKATO
NEW ULM FARIBAULT
PLAINVIEW-ELGIN-MILLVILLE

Enhancing Education

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

- Minnesota School Board Association
- Minnesota Science Teacher Association
- Minnesota Career Technical Education Works
- Minnesota Middle School Association
- Minnesota Homeschoolers' Alliance
- Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators
- Minnesota Rural Education Association



With more than **35+** EVENTS attended in **2019.**

A new social media initiative was developed by the MN State Agricultural Centers of Excellence to educate students about careers in agriculture.

LEARN. GROW. DO.

Growing Professional Development

After more than **25 years** without a program, **Mankato Area Public Schools (MAPS)** adds **agriculture curriculum** to the district offering.

"CASE has made my first year of teaching much more simple. From having ready-made lesson plans, to sequencing guides, and purchasing manuals-all the resources make my day-to-day tasks easier and allow me to focus more on developing relationships with my students and fellow teachers while enhancing my teaching talents."

- Ethan Dado, *MAPS AFNR Educator*

MAPS students visit Ardent Mills, Guardian Energy, and SCC to learn more about Ag Career Opportunities.

"We have an excellent teacher who has chosen our district and we have chosen him to be part of our ag pathway and we're very excited to build on our partnerships and grow this program to be successful in our region and in our school district."

- Kim Mueller, *MAPS Career and College Readiness Coordinator*

A Clear Vision of the Future... 20/20

Expand collaboration with the other seven Centers of Excellence to better reach teachers, administrators, students, and industry.

Continue support of mental health initiatives across the state.

Promote MN State AFNR Programs by providing banners to over 200 programs.

Provide a camp experience partnered with the YMCA and Ag in the classroom, working with students weekly throughout the summer.

the YMCA

LEARN. GROW. DO.

Conduct market research with students to continue influencing through social media.

FARMER VETERAN COALITION

Launch the Veterans communication and marketing campaign. Engage key stakeholders to explore starting a Minnesota chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition.

1920 Lee Boulevard
North Mankato, MN 56003

centerofagriculture.org