



# 32<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CAREER FAIR AND TRAINING CONFERENCE

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION GUIDE

**MANRRS: SCULPTING MINDS, NURTURING HEARTS  
AND CREATING DIVERSE LEADERS**

MARCH 29 - APRIL 1, 2017

WYNDHAM GRAND PITTSBURGH DOWNTOWN, PITTSBURGH, PA

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
BAYER, DUPONT, AND THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

*MANRRS wishes to thank the following organizations that have partnered with us and significantly contributed to the successful planning of the 32nd Annual MANRRS Career Fair and Training Conference.*



### **Bayer**

Bayer is a Life Science company with a more than 150-year history and core competencies in the areas of health care and agriculture. With our innovative products, we are contributing to finding solutions to some of the major challenges of our time. The growing and increasingly aging world population requires improved medical care and an adequate supply of food. Bayer is improving people's quality of life by preventing, alleviating and treating diseases. And we are helping to provide a reliable supply of high-quality food, feed and plant-based raw materials. Employees with a passion for innovation enjoy excellent development opportunities at Bayer.

[www.bayer.com](http://www.bayer.com)



### **The Pennsylvania State University**

The first of the colleges established at Penn State, the College of Agricultural Sciences awarded the nation's first baccalaureate degrees in agriculture in 1861. The only land-grant institution in Pennsylvania, Penn State became one of the nation's first when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Act into law in 1862. The College of Agricultural Sciences invests nearly \$97 million in research and graduate study yearly.

Penn State Extension, present in every county, delivers University expertise directly to the community and works to assess and address the social, educational, and physical needs of citizens throughout the state.

<http://agsci.psu.edu>



*The miracles of science™*

### **DuPont**

DuPont is a science company dedicated to solving challenging global problems, while creating measurable and meaningful value for its customers, employees and shareholders. Their dynamic portfolio of products, materials and services meets the ever-changing market needs of diverse industries in more than 90 countries. DuPont unites around a set of core values—safety and health, environmental stewardship, highest ethical behavior and respect for people.

The new DuPont is built on a proud heritage and a collaborative ethic. They partner with like-minded companies to help supply Earth's burgeoning population with better, safer food; abundant and sustainable energy; and protection for what matters most—our planet and its inhabitants.

[www.dupont.com](http://www.dupont.com)



2017 CONFERENCE HOSTS

# THANK YOU TO OUR NATIONAL PARTNERS FOR HELPING US MAKE IT TO THIS WONDERFUL MILESTONE!

## DIAMOND LEVEL (\$50,000+)



## GOLD LEVEL (\$20,000+)

Bunge  
Dow AgroSciences  
DuPont

## SILVER LEVEL (\$15,000+)

BASF  
Cargill  
USDA Agricultural Research Service

## BRONZE LEVEL (\$10,000+)

Elanco Animal Health  
The Pennsylvania State University  
USDA APHIS, PPQ

## PLATINUM LEVEL (\$30,000+)



*As of January 2017*

**MANRRS would like to thank our current partnering organizations for their support of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Career Fair and Training Conference**

## SPONSORSHIP, EXHIBITION, AND ADVERTISEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Support MANRRS and increase your organization's visibility at the MANRRS 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Career Fair and Training Conference through sponsorship, exhibiting or advertising. What a great way to get your organization's name in front of a growing MANRRS audience!

**FOR COMPLETE DETAILS:** Visit the conference website at [www.manrrs.org](http://www.manrrs.org) or contact the conference planner.

Lisa Hurly, A Meeting Company  
Phone: 877-744-3083  
Fax: 877-744-3084

[MANRRS@ameetingplace.com](mailto:MANRRS@ameetingplace.com)

## MANRRS Conferences Then and Now...

- 1986 Progressive Agriculture in the Eighties
- 1987 Linkages: Uniting to Face the Challenges of the Future
- 1988 Agricultural Sciences: The Place to Be
- 1989 Graduate Education: Your Key to a Secure Future
- 1990 Preparing for Our Future and Building on Our Past
- 1991 Diversity: The Key to Excellence
- 1992 The Changing Face of Agriculture
- 1993 Facing the Challenges of Agriculture Now and in the 21st Century
- 1994 MANRRS: A Mosaic in the Making
- 1995 MANRRS 2000 - A Global Vision
- 1996 Networking in the Information Age
- 1997 MANRRS - The Catalyst for Change: Empowerment for the Future
- 1998 Science and Information Technology for Tomorrow
- 1999 MANRRS: A Diversity of Cultures, A Diversity of Opportunities
- 2000 MANRRS 2000: Making Today's Dreamers Tomorrow's Leaders
- 2001 MANRRS in the Millennium – Remembering Our Past and Embracing Our Future
- 2002 Developing One Nation: Bringing Together Culture, Diversity and Technology
- 2003 MANRRS – Pursuing Excellence in Leadership, Scholarship, and Service
- 2004 Building on the Past, Embracing the Present and Shaping the Future
- 2005 Encouraging Innovation, Promoting Diversity, Achieving Excellence
- 2006 MANRRS: The Signature of Success
- 2007 MANRRS: Innovation, Exploration and Discovery
- 2008 MANRRS: Cultivating Minds for Tomorrow's Leadership
- 2009 MANRRS: Expanding Our Horizons, Embracing the Challenge, and Preparing for the Future
- 2010 MANRRS: 25 Years of History, Excellence and Opportunities... The Best is Yet to Come!
- 2011 MANRRS: Cultivating a Generation of Excellence
- 2012 MANRRS: Planting the Seeds for Global Success
- 2013 MANRRS: Turning Vision into Action
- 2014 Embracing Today's Challenges to Embark on Tomorrow's Opportunities
- 2015 Thirty Years of Triumph: Branching Out and Excelling to Greater Heights
- 2016 Growing the Next Generation of Agricultural Leaders

## Office of the President:

Dear Members, Partners, Sponsors, Friends, Advocates and Guests:

We would like to personally invite each of you to the 32nd MANRRS Annual Career Fair and Training Conference. It is an intriguing time for the agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences field as we continue to grow and evolve, remaining always adaptable, motivated and responsive to our membership, societal, and workforce needs.

MANRRS is confronting a time of many changes and we are meeting these changes during a time of larger nation wide and global change. The world of agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences is an exciting area in which to be involved in, and we will continue to convene and bring inspired professionals and students (Collegiate and Jr. MANRRS) together to ensure our society remains at the forefront.

Through the Annual Career Fair and Training Conference, the National Society of MANRRS offers many benefits and services to help members increase their knowledge and develop skills in partnerships for student success. Our sessions acquaint new members with MANRRS and prepare them for future roles in their chapters, and help experienced members improve and refine their knowledge and skills for their ideal job or internship in the field of agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences industry.

Please join us in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as we aim to create the next generation of Agricultural Leaders!

Sincerely,



Norman I. Barclift, MBA, MS  
National Professional President 2016-17

## 2016-2017 NATIONAL OFFICERS



Norman Barclift  
President



Ebony Webber  
COO



Alex Moore  
President-Elect



Dr. Quentin Tyler  
Past President



Sterling August  
Treasurer



Tracey Troutman  
Secretary



Shedra Rakestraw  
Historian



Dr. Eunice Foster  
Advisory Chair



Dr. Jeneen Abrams  
Parliamentarian



Marcus Tyler, Jr.  
UG President



Kelly Moore  
Past UG President



Michael Cha  
R1 UG VP



Thomas Gottilla  
R2 UG VP



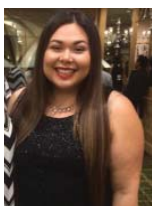
Victoria Womack  
R3 UG VP



Jayde Daniels  
R4 UG VP



Rishona Headen-Brown  
R5 UG VP



Angelica Aldana  
R6 UG VP



Ayodele Dare  
UG Parliamentarian



Ashley Holt  
GR President



Brielle McElveen  
Past GR President



Tiffany Harper  
R1/R5 GR VP



Xavia Gantz  
R2/R3 GR VP



Breanna Watkins  
R4/R6 GR VP



Marcus Bernard  
GR Parliamentarian

## 2016-2017 ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Dr. Eunice Foster (Chair)  
Michigan St. Univ.



Kenya Francis  
Farm Credit



Yvette Green  
USDA APHIS, AC



Melissa Harper  
Monsanto



Freddrianna McElveen  
TU, Veterinary Medicine



Kelly Moore  
University of Kentucky



David Rock  
John Deere



Dr. Loston Rowe  
DuPont



Dr. Byron Sleugh  
Dow AgroSciences



Jenny Spurgeon  
Global Prairie



Dr. Ulises Toledo  
West Virginia St. Univ.

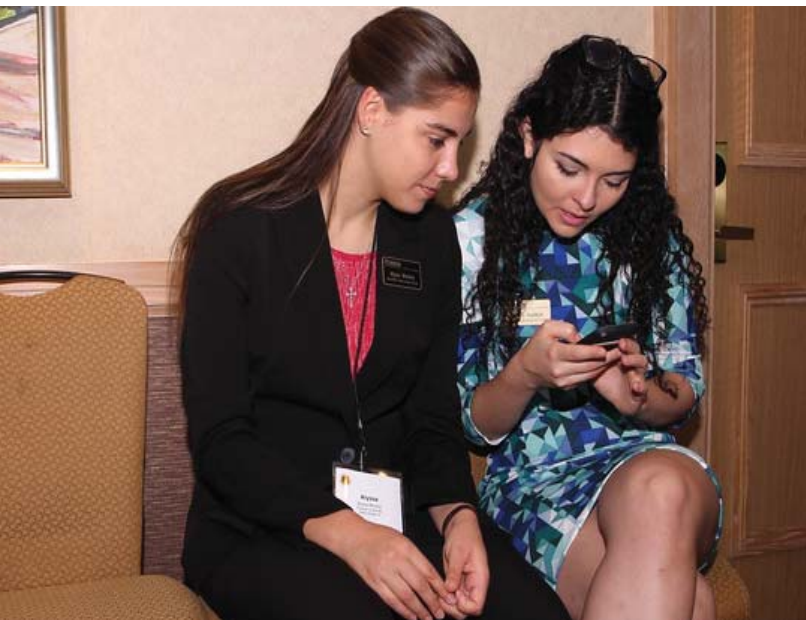


Dr. Quentin Tyler  
University of Kentucky

## 2016-2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Dr. Jeneen Abrams, Communications Committee Co-Chair
- Jeremy Adamson, Public Relations Committee Co-Chair
- Karl Binns, Jr. MANRRS Committee Co-Chair
- Ernest Bradley, Jr. MANRRS Committee Co-Chair
- Miguel Carlin, Ad-hoc Alumni Committee Chair
- Steven Couch, Public Relations Committee Co-Chair
- Antomia Farrell, Jr. MANRRS Committee Co-Chair
- Marcus Glenn, Ad-hoc Alumni Committee Chair
- Dr. Wash Jones, Ad-hoc Constitution Committee Chair
- Clarissa Okpaleke, Ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair
- John Plummer, Ad-hoc Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chair
- Dr. Loston Rowe, Finance Committee Co-Chair
- Tracey Troutman, Communications Committee Co-Chair
- Dr. Candiss Williams, Membership Committee Co-Chair
- Brielle Wright, Membership Committee Co-Chair

# PAST CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



# 2017 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

As we prepare for MANRRS 32nd Annual Career Fair and Training Conference, the 2017 Conference Planning Team and Region I invite you to join us in this spectacular event in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Awaiting you are opportunities to network, attend workshops, share ideas, and visit the Career Fair where you will explore various employment opportunities with many world-renowned, private agriculture industry leaders, colleges and universities, and federal and state agencies.

We encourage your participation and involvement in this great Society and a great conference. We look forward to seeing you, as we continue to “**Sculpt Minds, Nurture Hearts and Develop Leaders**” in the fields of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences for the 21st century and beyond.

## Overall Planning

Ebony Webber, MBA, MANRRS

## Conference Planning Committee Team Leaders:

Camille Gipson, Bayer  
Patrese Ingram, Ph.D., The Pennsylvania State University  
Derek James, The Pennsylvania State University  
Narke Norton, University of Georgia  
Maurice Smith, Jr., The Pennsylvania State University  
Jennifer Struck, DuPont



## AN OVERVIEW OF MANRRS HISTORY

In the early 1980s, a concerned minority student, Dave Weatherspoon, recognized the need for a support group for minority students in agricultural programs at Michigan State University (MSU). With the help and guidance of a sensitive college advisor, Eunice Foster, he set out to form such a group on his campus. From these efforts, the Minority Agriculture and Natural Resources Association (MANRA), a registered student organization in the College of Agriculture at MSU, was founded in the spring of 1982. News of MANRA reached a staff person whose responsibilities included promoting participation of minority students in agricultural sciences at The Pennsylvania State University (PSU). In 1985, after a series of communications between institutions, representatives of MANRA and their faculty mentor visited PSU to help form an organization for minority students in its College of Agriculture. Out of this meeting, Minorities in Agriculture (MIA) was formed by the Penn State group. Dr. William Henson served as the first advisor for this group at Penn State.

In April 1986, MANRA and MIA jointly sponsored “The First Annual Conference of Minority Students in Agriculture and Natural Resources” at MSU. A primary focus of the conference was the problem of how to organize student disciplinary interest groups on university campuses. Over 40 students and faculty from six colleges participated. The second conference, also sponsored jointly by MANRA and MIA, was held, April 1987, at PSU. More than 60 people from 11 colleges, six government organizations, and five private organizations participated. The third conference was held at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, April 1988. This was a pivotal meeting for the formation of MANRRS. Student and faculty representatives from all 1862 and 1890 land grant colleges and universities, including Tuskegee University, were invited. Representatives from interested public and private agencies were also invited to participate.



## 2017 ADVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award recognizes the Advisor that has gone over and beyond to support his or her chapter members and chapter activities. **Deadline for Submission is February 15th.**

### Nomination for MANRRS Advisor Award

*The Nomination Package must include:*

1. Completed nomination form and cover sheet;
2. The nominee's résumé (limited to three pages);
3. Three letters of recommendation;
4. One to two page summary written and signed by the nominator that summarizes the impact that the nominee has had on Leadership Development; Professional Development; and the Career training/careers of several current and former MANRRS members;
5. The other two letters, written by the primary and secondary MANRRS member mentees, could come from current or past members, who should give an account of how the Advisor has impacted his/her career.

**NOTE:** The MANRRS Advisor must have served in this position for at least two years. The Nominator and the two other persons writing the letters of reference must be current or past MANRRS members. Self-nominations and nominations for members, posthumously, will not be accepted. The Nominator, the primary and secondary mentees must be three different persons.

## 2017 MANRRS LEGEND

The MANRRS Legend Award was created in 2007 to honor individuals who have made extraordinary strides in the name of MANRRS. This person should be a continuous servant of the organization, helping to further the goals and the objectives of the society. Past winners include the late Dr. William Henson (2007), Dr. Eunice Foster (2008), Dr. Jesse Thompson, Jr. (2009), Dr. Dave Weatherspoon (2010), Dr. Charles Magee (2011), Tina Terrell (2012), Dr. Carlos Gonzalez (2013), and Dr. Curtis White (2015). **Deadline: February 15, 2017.**

### Criteria

- Individual should be an active member of MANRRS
- Member of the organization for at least 10 years
- Participated on at least one MANRRS committee

### Guidelines

1. The individual cannot nominate themselves to receive the award.
2. The nominating person should write a one-page essay on why the person should receive the award and include the individual's accomplishments within the National Society.
3. The individual will be chosen by the Executive Committee via majority vote.
4. This information must be submitted to the MANRRS National Office via electronic submission to [exec.office@manrrs.org](mailto:exec.office@manrrs.org).

### Recognition

- The individual will be highlighted in the Final Conference Program with a one-page layout that includes a color photo, brief biography and a list of MANRRS Accomplishments.
- The individual will be formally recognized at the Opening General Session and Parade of Chapters on Thursday evening, March 30th, with an award as well as provide brief remarks to the attendees.
- The individual will be awarded a complimentary registration to attend the 2017 national conference.







Pittsburgh continues to rise to the top of cities worth visiting. Recently named one of the “Best Places to Travel in 2016” by Travel + Leisure, rated the nation’s “No. 1 Food City” by Zagat and named among the “Top Destinations on the Rise” by TripAdvisor, it’s easy to see why everyone’s talking about Pittsburgh. Outstanding attractions and amenities, award-winning restaurants, and world-class accommodations are among the biggest draws. Add to that the friendly people, affordability and walkability, you’ve got the perfect recipe for an ideal getaway.

<http://www.visitpittsburgh.com>

## GETTING TO PITTSBURGH!

### TRAVEL BY AIR

#### Transportation from Pittsburgh Airport:

- Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT) is designed with the reliability and capacity of a hub infrastructure without the congestion and delays of a hub airport. The catchment area of Pittsburgh captures nearly 9 million people within a two hour drive, a competitive incentive program, and a diverse list of options without scheduled nonstop service.
- Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT) to Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown is approximately 17 miles.

### Transportation Options:

For ground transportation assistance upon arrival at PIT, please go directly to the Ground Transportation located on the Lower Level outside Baggage Claim.

- Uber/Lyft - Mobile App

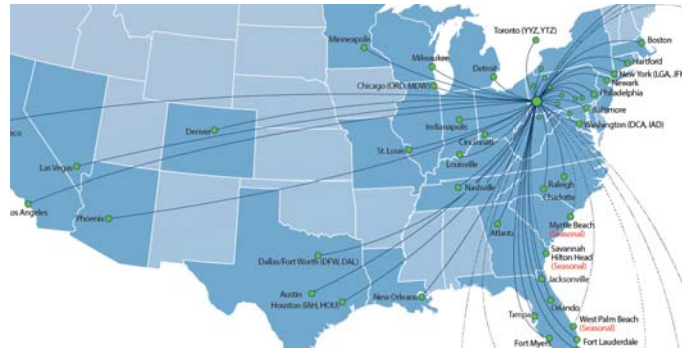
#### Taxi Services:

- Checkered Cab (412) 664-5600
- Cranberry Taxi, Inc. dba Veterans Taxi (412) 481-8387
- Yellow Cab of Pittsburgh (412) 321-8100
- Port Authority West Busway:  
Contact at (412) 442-2000. Departs every 30 minutes outside of Door 6, Baggage Claim, \$3.75 Rate

### CITIES WITH NON-STOP SERVICE TO PITTSBURGH:

Atlanta  
Boston  
Chicago (ORD,MDW)  
Dallas (DFW, DAL)  
Detroit  
Houston (IAH/HOU)  
Las Vegas  
Louisville  
Minneapolis  
Newark  
New York (LGA, JFK)  
Philadelphia  
San Francisco  
Washington (DCA, IAD)

Baltimore  
Charlotte  
Cincinnati  
Denver  
Ft. Lauderdale  
Indianapolis  
Los Angeles  
Miami  
Nashville  
New Orleans  
Orlando  
Raleigh  
Tampa



**BOOK ONLINE USING YOUR EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT CODE: 2NJRU**

**Valid: March 25 - April 5, 2017**

Save \$4 round trip SuperShuttle  
or  
\$6 off round trip ExecuCar Private Sedan

To book either service, go to: [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com) or use the SuperShuttle app and enter your discount code.

<http://www.supershuttle.com/default.aspx?GC=2NJRU>

**Discount valid via web or app only / Gratuity not included.**

NOTE: A \$2.00 BOOKING FEE will apply to phone reservations booked by a reservation agent.



## Wyndham Grand Downtown

~~ DON'T WAIT ~~

**Reserve your Guest Room Early!**

### BY PHONE:

- Contact the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown at (412) 391-4600. Mention “**MANRRS 2017 Annual Meeting**” group in order to receive the \$128 plus tax (currently 14% tax) per night group rate.
- Total Rate with tax: **\$145.92**

### BY WEBSITE:

- For online reservation, the link can be accessed on the MANRRS website at [www.manrrs.org](http://www.manrrs.org).
- Make your reservations EARLY! The group rate and rooms will be available until the MANRRS Room Block is full or **Tuesday, March 7, 2017**, whichever occurs first.
- Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown currently recommends Passkey web based reservations.
- Reservations may be made, modified or canceled by individuals on-line.

### Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown

600 Commonwealth Place, Pittsburgh, PA

**Phone:** (412) 391-4600

**MANRRS Group Rate:** \$128.00 + tax (Currently 14%/night)

**Self Parking:** options nearby with varying rates

**Valet:** \$30, Based on first-come, first-serve basis

**Internet:** Complimentary in sleeping rooms

**Check-in:** 4:00 PM | **Check-out:** 12:00 Noon

*Rollaway beds are available for an additional charge of \$20.*

Discover the 90 distinct neighborhoods of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania when you stay at the centrally located Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown. The hotel is located in the Central Business District, also known as the Golden Triangle, at the meeting of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers to form the Ohio River, and conveniently near the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Heinz Field, PNC Park, Consol Energy Center, Rivers Casino, and a short drive to the Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT). Where soaring skyscrapers and Pittsburgh’s famous three rivers meet, an upscale hotel experience awaits in downtown.

At the sophisticated downtown Pittsburgh hotel, you’ll experience not only stylish hotel lodging with spectacular river views, but professional, friendly services that cater to your every need. The moment you step into the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown hotel, you’ll be greeted by our exceptional hotel staff that will help assist with luggage, book theater tickets or make dinner reservations. A stress-free business or leisure escape in the heart of Pittsburgh’s Central Business District includes complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the hotel and sleeping rooms, ATM services, valet parking and evening turn-down service.

### Hotel Cancellation Policy

Reservations must be cancelled at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled arrival date. Any cancellations received after that date would be charged one night’s room and tax. Please contact the hotel directly regarding any room cancellations or changes, with the exception of rooms reserved through Chapter of Excellence. Contact the MANRRS National Office for these rooms to make changes.



## DRESS CODE

### What to Bring

Professional business attire is expected throughout the conference with the exception of the late night social activities, when casual attire is acceptable. We strongly encourage students and professionals to wear professional attire during the conference. Remember, you only get one chance to make a first impression! The dress code and accepted attire is listed below. Regional vice-presidents will be sending out supplemental information prior to the conference on appropriate attire.

### Climate

Springtime visitors to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania will find mild with moderate levels of sunshine. With the Pittsburgh weather being cool to cold, medium/heavy weight clothing such as a comfortable pantsuit for women or a jacket for men will be most appropriate. Pittsburgh is usually mild and dry and averages 35/40 degrees Fahrenheit in the Spring. Clothing that can be layered is highly suggested.

## RECOMMENDED ATTIRE

### Thursday/Sunday

Travel Days Casual Dress; Chapter, Organization or University Shirt

### Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>

Pre-Conference Mobile Tours - Casual Dress; Comfortable walking shoes

Opening General Session and Welcome Dinner - Business Casual: Slacks: (Dockers, Khakis), no jeans, School Polo Shirts are acceptable

### Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>

General Session, Career Fair, Meetings, Workshops, Contests - Professional Women Attire: Suit (pants or skirt) or dress and appropriate dress shoes (no stiletto heels)  
Professional Men Attire: Suit or sport coat, tie and dress slacks (no Dockers or Khakis)

Presidents' Reception - Sport teams and jerseys are encouraged

### Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

Meals, Business Meetings, Workshops - Business Casual: Slacks: (Dockers, Khakis), no jeans, School Polo Shirts are acceptable

Gala Dinner & Dance - Semi-formal/Formal Attire or Professional Attire

### Friday/Saturday evening

Talent Show & Evening Dance (After Party) - Casual Dress

## 2017 REGISTRATION AND LODGING COSTS

### REGISTRATION FEES:

Received by Feb. 28, 2017	Received after Feb. 28, 2017	On-Site
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### MEMBERS:

Jr. MANRRS ( <i>middle school &amp; high school</i> )		
\$185.00	\$235.00	\$285.00

Collegiate Member ( <i>UG &amp; GR</i> )		
\$250.00	\$275.00	\$325.00

Professional Member		
\$435.00	\$485.00	\$535.00

Collegiate One-Day Fee ( <i>Meals Included</i> )		
\$75.00	\$100.00	\$125.00

Professional One-Day Fee ( <i>Meals Included</i> )		
\$160.00	\$185.00	\$210.00

### NON-MEMBERS:

Collegiate Non-Member		
\$285.00	\$335.00	\$385.00

Professional Non-Member		
\$535.00	\$585.00	\$635.00

Professional Non-Member One-Day Fee ( <i>Meals Included</i> )		
\$210.00	\$235.00	\$260.00

## Online Registration is REQUIRED

Please visit [www.manrrs.org](http://www.manrrs.org)  
for complete details.

Conference registration questions  
can be directed to:

Lisa Hurly, A Meeting Company  
411 Washington Avenue  
Haddonfield, NJ 08033  
Phone: (877) 744-3083  
Fax: (877) 744-3084  
E-mail: [hurlyl@ameetingplace.com](mailto:hurlyl@ameetingplace.com)





### ONLINE REGISTRATION

To register online for the MANRRS 2017 conference, go to [www.manrrs.org](http://www.manrrs.org) and click regional and national meetings. Follow the links to complete the online registration.

Complete the online registration with your payment by **February 28, 2017** and save on registration fees. (Payment must accompany registration form to qualify for early rate.)

A full conference registration includes the following:

- Entry to all Workshop Sessions and General Sessions (Wed., Thu., Fri., & Sat.)
- Entry to the Career Fair (Friday)
- The following meals:
  - \* Thursday: Dinner;
  - \* Friday: Box Lunch, and heavy hors d'oeuvres at the President's Reception; and
  - \* Saturday: Lunch and Gala Banquet Dinner.
- Conference Registration Packet with giveaway items

Each participant will receive a Registration Packet containing a MANRRS name badge, Conference Program which lists all organizations participating in the Career Fair, contest participants, and general information about MANRRS. Attendees must be registered participants to attend conference activities. Admission to all activities will require your name badge.

### BADGES AND TICKETS

Your name badge is your ticket into the conference. You will receive your conference badge when you check-in at the MANRRS Conference Registration Desk. Name badges must be worn at all times. Meal tickets are provided for the Career Fair Box Lunch, VIP Scholars' Breakfast, and President's Reception. You must present ticket in order to receive food. Special tickets are provided to individuals with dietary restrictions.

### INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

MANRRS encourages the full participation of individuals with special needs or disabilities. The Grand Wyndham Downtown is handicap accessible. Please indicate on the registration form if you need special assistance, and the Conference Planner will contact you.

### CONFERENCE SHIRTS

Professionals and students may pick up their complimentary conference shirt during registration. Shirt sizes are included on the registration form. Exact shirt sizes cannot be guaranteed.



## WORKSHOPS

Conference attendees will be required to attend both workshops in the morning and afternoon. Workshops' acceptance are contingent upon the number of attendees who sign up. Workshops will close once they meet maximum capacity. You are required to attend the workshops selected. All attendees will receive workshop confirmations approximately two to three weeks prior to the conference.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION CANCELLATION REFUND POLICY

All conference cancellations must be received in writing by the following dates to receive a refund:

- 100% refund, less a \$50 administrative fee, when received by January 31, 2017
- 50% refund when received between February 1 and March 10, 2017
- No Refund if received after March 10, 2017



## LIABILITY

By attending the MANRRS Career Fair and Training Conference, all participants agree to assume certain inherent risks, which accompany attendance at such events. Participants are expected to comply with the travel policies of the entity(ies) that they represent. This may include completion of release forms, assumption of risk forms, and other required paperwork. All participants accept personal responsibility and liability for their actions while at the conference site in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area, and while traveling to and from the conference site. The MANRRS organization may not be held liable for individual acts of negligence or unlawful activity on the part of conference participants. The MANRRS organization may be held liable only for incidents in the case of gross negligence on the part of its agents. All MANRRS conference participants

are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner during the conference. Chapter Advisors are requested to help ensure that their students represent their institutions professionally and that they adhere to the expectations of conference attendance.

## PHOTO DISCLAIMER

All photographs sent to or taken by MANRRS become the property of the National Society. By completing this registration, you understand that you are giving all rights and titles in and to all photographs taken to the National Society for MANRRS. As owners of the photographs, MANRRS will have all rights to use and publish the photographs, and no compensation is made or owed for use of the photographs. Photographs will not be given or sold to any other company or individual.

## PEOPLE POWER

Volunteers are an intricate part of the conference success. Numerous volunteers are needed to assist with a variety of tasks during the conference. One Conference Host is assigned to arrange for and coordinate the work of volunteers, our "People Power" program.



**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Student Officer Bag Stuffing  
 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Executive Committee Meeting  
 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM Advisory Committee Meeting  
 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM Registration Opens  
 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Diversity Summit

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30<sup>th</sup>**

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM Diversity Summit  
 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM Jr. MANRRS Mobile Tours  
 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM Conference Registration  
 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM Sponsor Appreciation Luncheon  
 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM Student Workshop I  
 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM Resume and Mock Interviewing  
 Power Hour  
 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM Linked: Chapter Photos  
 12:30 PM – 5:00 PM Career Fair Setup  
 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM Student Workshop II  
 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM New Members’ Orientation and  
 Induction Ceremony  
 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM Jr. MANRRS Pep Rally  
 4:15 PM - 5:00 PM Contest Superintendents and  
 Judges’ Meeting  
 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM Opening General Session &  
 Welcome Dinner  
 8:00 PM - 8:30 PM Contest Participants report to  
 designated contest rooms  
 8:15 PM – 9:00 PM Business Card Exchange -  
 Exclusive Networking Event  
 (Elite Scholars Only)  
 8:30 PM – UNTIL Contest: Public Speaking  
 8:30 PM – UNTIL Contest: Chapter of the Year  
 8:30 PM – UNTIL Contest: MANRRS Bowl  
 8:30 PM - UNTIL Contest: Impromptu Speaking  
 9:00 PM - 10:30 PM Student Mixer – Cultural Line  
 Dance Challenge  
 9:00 PM – 11:00 PM Cocktails and Conversations  
 (Graduates & Professionals)

**FRIDAY, MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>**

7:00 AM – 8:15 AM Roundtable Scholars  
 Breakfast w/ National Partners  
 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM Call to Serve - National  
 Committee Interest Meeting  
 (Students & Professionals)  
 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM Contest Participants report to  
 designated contest rooms  
 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Industry Professional Workshop  
 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM Conference Registration  
 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM Contests:  
 GR Research Poster - Div. I & II  
 GR Oral Research - Div. I & II  
 Research Discussion  
 UG Research Poster - Div. I & II  
 UG Oral Research - Div. I & II

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Contest: Elevator Speech  
 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM Jr. MANRRS Contests  
 8:45 AM - 9:50 AM My MANRRS Journey – Jr.  
 MANRRS & FR Workshop  
 8:45 AM - 9:50 AM My MANRRS Journey – So & Jr  
 8:45 AM - 9:50 AM My MANRRS Journey – Sr & Gr  
 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Jr. MANRRS Workshop I  
 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM Career Fair Opens  
 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Professional Workshop I  
 11:00 AM - 3:30 PM MANRRS Bowl  
 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM Career Empowerment Lunch w/  
 Industry Executives  
 1:30 PM – 2:20 PM Jr. MANRRS Workshop II  
 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Contest: Business Pitch  
 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Biological Sciences Oral  
 Research Symposium  
 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM Social Sciences Oral Research  
 Symposium  
 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Contest: MANRRS Bowl  
 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Professional Workshop II  
 2:30 PM - 3:20 PM Jr. MANRRS Workshop III  
 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Ice Cream Social  
 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Graduate Student Meeting  
 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Undergraduate Student Meeting  
 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Professional & Exhibitor  
 Appreciation Cocktail Hour  
 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM President’s Sports Reception  
 9:30 PM – 11:00 PM MANRRS Got Talent & After  
 Party - featuring Professionals &  
 Students  
 10:00 PM – 12:00 AM National Partner and Professional  
 Hospitality

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>**

6:00 AM – 7:00 AM 5K Run and One-Mile Walk  
 6:00 AM – 7:00 AM Yoga and Exercise  
 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM Professional Meeting  
 8:40 AM – 10:00 AM National Leadership Forum &  
 Business Meeting  
 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Jr. MANRRS High School  
 Symposium  
 10:10 AM – 11:00 AM Workshop Session A  
 11:10 AM – 12:10 PM Workshop Session B  
 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM Award Luncheon  
 2:15 PM – 3:15 PM Workshop Session C  
 3:25 PM – 4:25 PM Workshop Session D  
 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Gala & Awards Ceremony  
 8:30 PM – 11:00 PM Formal Dance

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2<sup>nd</sup>**

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM National Officer Meeting –  
 Newly Elected & Current Officers  
 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM EC Small Breakfast Meeting

# WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29TH

## DIVERSITY SUMMIT

### “HOW TO EFFECTIVELY CHANGE ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE AND DEVELOP THE NEXT GENERATION OF DIVERSE, AGRICULTURAL LEADERS”

The MANRRS Diversity Summit provides a forum for robust and informed discussion and dialogue among university faculty, government leaders, corporate executives, and MANRRS members about issues relative to building and sustaining an inclusive and welcoming organizational culture. At this year’s summit, we hope to facilitate a variety of discussions, panels, and workshops from experts with direct experiences in recruiting, retaining, and developing diverse talent. At the conclusion of the symposium, participants will have gained direct insight in how to recruit, retain, and develop diverse talent, gained relationships with diversity and inclusion experts and also learned how to create a welcoming environment.

The primary audiences of the symposium are institutional leaders, university administration and faculty, corporate executives, HR, D&I Offices and staff who have responsibilities for hiring and student academic success. We invite all agriculture, natural resources, and related science industrial leaders to participate and contribute to the dialogue and discussions as a way to make your voices heard as we work together to “*Sculpt Minds, Nurture Hearts and Create Diverse Leaders.*”

**Summit Registration: \$85.00** (includes reception and breakfast - add-on cost to regular registration)

#### PRELIMINARY AGENDA

MARCH 29TH - 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM | MARCH 30TH - 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM

#### MARCH 29, 2017

- 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Student Poster Showcase and Reception  
*An interactive MANRRS student showcase of student internships, education abroad experiences and research throughout country and around the globe!*
- 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Professionals in Agriculture Panel
- 8:00 PM - 8:30 PM Networking Reception

#### MARCH 30, 2017

- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast Roundtable Discussion
- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Changing Organizational Culture
- 10:10 AM - 12:00 PM Breakout Sessions:  
1A: Unconscious Bias Training  
1B: Lazy Brains and Unintentional Intolerance
- 12:10 PM - 12:30 PM Closing Session

PRE-CONFERENCE EVENT





**SPONSOR APPRECIATION LUNCHEON**

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

The Sponsor Appreciation Luncheon is an invite-only event to recognize MANRRS Supporters, Partners, and Sponsors.

**MOCK INTERVIEWING WITH INDUSTRY PARTNERS**

2:00 PM – 4:30 PM

Do you know the proper way to introduce yourself to an employer? The Mock Interviewing Power Sessions will feature professionals from top companies who will provide invaluable career advice and interviewing techniques. This is also an unique opportunity to develop relationships with company insiders--be prepared to shine. Advance sign-up is required. Available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Limited availability.



**NEW MEMBERS' MEETING AND INDUCTION CEREMONY**

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM

New members are encouraged to attend this session to learn about the benefits of membership, MANRRS History, and receive their membership pin and certificate.



**OPENING GENERAL SESSION & WELCOME DINNER**

5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Join us as we kick off the celebration of MANRRS' 32nd Career Fair and Training Conference, commencing with this year's Opening General Session and Parade of Chapters featuring Kwame Jackson as the keynote speaker.

**BUSINESS CARD EXCHANGE NETWORKING EVENT**

8:15 PM – 9:00 PM

ELITE SCHOLARS ONLY

Exclusive event for elite scholars who possess a minimum 3.3 cumulative GPA to meet with peers and industry executives, ask questions and interact, exchange business cards, network, and more during this highly interactive session. Business cards are strongly encouraged.



**NATIONAL STUDENT COMPETITIONS**

(CHECK SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS)

8:30 PM – 10:30 PM

**STUDENT MIXER – CULTURAL LINE DANCE CHALLENGE**

9:00 PM – 10:30 PM

Join MANRRS National Student Officers for a fun, cultural celebration. This social mixer will have plenty of dancing, music and fun - great for networking and conversations in a casual, fun setting.

**COCKTAILS AND CONVERSATIONS**

9:00 PM – 11:00 PM

PROFESSIONALS & GRADUATE STUDENTS

Join MANRRS Professionals, MANRRS Alumni members, and Graduate Students for networking and conversations in a casual, informal setting. Minimum age requirement is 21.



**ROUNDTABLE SCHOLARS  
BREAKFAST WITH INDUSTRY  
PARTNERS**

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM

ELITE SCHOLARS AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS ONLY

Sponsors will have the opportunity to network with the brightest students attending the National Conference. Students with at least a 3.30 cumulative GPA are invited to the exclusive Elite Scholars Breakfast to network with industry executives.

**CALL TO SERVE BREAKFAST  
MEETING**

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

This session is for students and professionals interested in joining one of the MANRRS Committees. Limited continental breakfast items will be provided.

**NATIONAL STUDENT  
COMPETITIONS** (CHECK SCHEDULE FOR DETAILS)

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

**CAREER FAIR**  
10:30 AM – 4:00 PM

This event provides the perfect venue for students and professionals to recruit and meet with representatives from government, industry, and academia. The Career Fair is an excellent opportunity to network and develop contacts for future internships or job opportunities. Some employers will conduct on-the-spot interviews during the Career Fair. Bring several copies of your professional resume, business cards, and plan to attend whether you are a freshman, senior, or professional looking for a change in careers.

**CAREER EMPOWERMENT LUNCH  
WITH INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES**  
12:00 PM – 1:15 PM

The interactive lunch session with industry executives will provide students and professionals an opportunity to meet and receive valuable advice on advancing in the agricultural industry as well as a discussion on the industry's most serious challenges.

**BIOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
ORAL SYMPOSIUMS**

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM



**PRESIDENTS' RECEPTION:  
DINNER RIVER CRUISE**

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Join MANRRS National President Norman Barclift for a sports themed celebration while sailing the Three Rivers- food, fun, games, music, and line dancing awaits us! Attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite sports' team attire. This event will be located off-site. Layered attire is encouraged. Group will depart hotel at 6:00 PM to walk across the street to the loading dock.

**MANRRS GOT TALENT &  
AFTERPARTY**

9:30 PM – 11:30 PM

The Annual Talent Show will feature professionals and students going head to head to showcase who has the best talent! Please arrive early, seats will fill. Don't forget to pack your dancing shoes for the After Party! Prizes awarded to the winners.

**NATIONAL PARTNER AND  
PROFESSIONAL HOSPITALITY**

10:00 PM – 12:00 AM



SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST

### 5K RUN AND ONE MILE WALK

6:00 AM – 7:00 AM

The Annual MANRRS 5K Run and One Mile Fitness Walk will take place on the beautiful riverfront outside the hotel. Proceeds will benefit the MANRRS Scholarship Fund which secures educational funding for deserving and talented student members who demonstrate the core values of the MANRRS organization. Members can participate in the run or as volunteers to help with timing, watering stations, etc. **Pre-registration is required.**

**Fee: \$20/per Runner and \$10/per Walker**

### YOGA AND EXERCISE

6:00 AM – 7:00 AM

Attendees looking for a less strenuous and more relaxing workout, will have the opportunity to participate in a Yoga and Exercise Class. Potential benefits of yoga include stress reduction, flexibility, and increased strength. Yoga can change your physical and mental capacity quickly, while preparing the mind and body for long-term health.

### NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM AND BUSINESS MEETING

8:45 AM – 10:00 AM

All members are encouraged to attend as official business items are shared, amendments presented and national officers confirmed. This meeting is for **Members Only**. Chapter delegates and professional members are strongly encouraged to attend.

### AWARDS LUNCHEON

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

### GALA BANQUET AND AWARDS CEREMONY - A BLACK TIE EVENT

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Gala Banquet and Awards Ceremony is an event to celebrate, congratulate and recognize MANRRS Contest Winners and Supporters and the winner of the Public Speaking Contest will give his/her winning speech.

### FORMAL DANCE

8:30 PM – 10:30 PM

Immediately following the Gala Banquet, we will host the final formal dance for all to attend. As we conclude the annual conference, join us for plenty of dancing and fun.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND

### NATIONAL OFFICER MEETING

8:00 AM – 9:15 AM

Current and newly elected national officers will convene for a brief meeting to discuss transition plans.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BREAKFAST MEETING

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM



## THURSDAY, MARCH 30TH

### EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION & SETUP

12:00 PM – 5:00 PM

### NATIONAL CONTESTS JUDGES & SUPERINTENDENTS' MEETING

4:30 PM - 5:15 PM

This brief informational meeting will provide overall contest guidance to volunteers involved in evaluating student competitions and to recognize them for their hardwork, dedication and commitment to student development and training.

### JUDGING FOR STUDENT COMPETITIONS

8:30 PM – 10:30 PM

### COCKTAILS & CONVERSATIONS: PROFESSIONALS & GRADUATE STUDENTS' HOSPITALITY

9:00 PM – 11:00 PM

## FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST

### JUDGING FOR STUDENT COMPETITIONS

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

### INDUSTRY WORKSHOP: USING DISC® TO BECOME MORE EFFECTIVE LEADERS IN THE WORKPLACE

8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Are you looking for creative ways to attract new members, build better workplaces and organizations, and become a more effective leader? This is a highly interactive workshop that looks at different personality styles in the workplace and our organizations. This session uses games, video clips, and discussions to explore ways to understand your DiSC® style, and the style and needs of others. We will use our experiences in leading high performing teams and our knowledge of DiSC to lead discussions on modifying your communication approach when working with different people.

### PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP 1B: WE GIVE MONEY! #OPPORTUNITIES

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) representatives will provide insight on funding strategies and additional opportunities through dialogue and discussion on six topic areas. The six topic areas include NIFA Funding Opportunities, Tips for Successful Applications, Competitive Peer Review Panel, International Engagement, Awards Management, and Potential NIFA Internship and Detail Opportunities.

### PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOP 2B: LET'S COLLABORATE

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Gain insight from granting agencies in session IB and find potential collaborators for your next research grant.

### PROFESSIONAL & EXHIBITOR APPRECIATION COCKTAIL HOUR

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Come and unwind in a casual setting with complimentary drinks and snacks.

### NATIONAL PARTNER AND PROFESSIONAL HOSPITALITY

10:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Join us in the Sky Lounge and unwind in a casual setting with complimentary drinks, music and snacks.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST

### PROFESSIONAL MEETING

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM

All active professional members are encouraged to attend and vote for incoming national professional officers.

### NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM & BUSINESS MEETING

8:40 AM - 10:00 AM

### 2017 CHAPTER ADVISOR SERIES

The sessions below will provide insight from industry professionals on resources to successfully manage your chapter. The Advisor Series is designed to prepare local chapter advisors for success through workshops, interactive training, peer-to-peer engagement and national program resources.

### CHAPTER ADVISOR FIRESIDE CHAT WITH INDUSTRY PARTNERS

10:15 AM - 11:20 AM

### CHAPTER ADVISORS' CROSS-REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE BREAKOUT

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM

### NATIONAL CHAPTER ADVISOR MEETING

2:15 PM - 3:15 PM

### CHAPTER ADVISOR WORKSHOP: DEVELOP A WINNING JR. MANRRS PROGRAM

3:25 PM - 4:25 PM



## JR. MANRRRS CONFERENCE EVENTS

Several colleges and universities established “Junior” MANRRRS chapters to promote agricultural literacy and awareness in their communities. Collegiate MANRRRS members serve as mentors to Jr. MANRRRS members and encourage them to participate in service learning activities, science fairs, and educational programs to help them understand how they can apply their skills in an agricultural discipline. Junior MANRRRS chapters from around the country are invited to participate in the celebration of the 32nd Annual Career Fair and Training Conference.

The Jr. MANRRRS Committee and the USDA Agricultural Research Service have planned activities for high school/middle school students allowing them to discuss leadership skills, problem solve ethical issues, and network with professionals, students and representatives of food, agricultural, natural resources, and related sciences’ industries.

Through the High School Symposium and Jr. MANRRRS program, MANRRRS is doing its part in raising awareness of the importance of including underrepresented groups in agriculture and related fields. The conference will serve as a vehicle to help inform students of the many opportunities available to them as they prepare for college and the “Real World.” Our goal is to plant the seed of encouragement through education, thus creating a pipeline of students who will pursue agriculture and natural resources and related sciences as fields of study. The youth are our FUTURE...Let us SUPPORT and LEAD them as they become agricultural professionals, scientists and scholars.

## JR. MANRRRS PRELIMINARY AGENDA

### MARCH 30, 2017

- 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Jr. MANRRRS Mobile Tours
- 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM Jr. MANRRRS Kick-Off Pep Rally

### MARCH 31, 2017

- 8:00 AM - 8:15 AM Jr. MANRRRS Refresher - Overview for Friday
- 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM Jr. MANRRRS Contests
- 8:45 AM - 9:50 AM My MANRRRS Journey Workshop - Jr. MANRRRS & Freshmen
- 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Workshop I: *Who’s Making Our Food*
- 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM Career Empowerment Lunch
- 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM Workshop II: *STEAM - Powering The Future of Agriculture*
- 2:30 PM - 3:20 PM Workshop III: *Skills to Pay the Bills*
- 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM Ice Cream Social
- 9:30 PM - 11:00 PM MANRRRS Got Talent & After Party

### APRIL 1, 2017

- 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM MANRRRS High School Symposium
- 2:15 PM - 3:15 PM Workshop IV: *International Programs for High School Students*
- 3:25 PM - 4:25 PM Jr. MANRRRS Closing

*The regular agenda should be followed except events noted above.*

# THURSDAY, MARCH 30TH

## ENRICHMENT TOURS

Explore opportunities...both culturally and academically by participating in the mobile workshop tours on Thursday, March 30th from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Mobile tours are for Jr. MANRRS attendees only, which includes a day long tour session and transportation. Lunch is not included. Participants will meet in the lobby at 7:45 AM for check-in and departure. Plan to dress casual, with comfortable walking shoes and warm clothing.

### Cancellation Policy

Tours are subject to cancellation by MANRRS if the minimum number of participants is not met. In the event of a tour cancellation, we will notify you in advance.

If you register for a tour and need to cancel, you must cancel in writing no later than March 11th. Register early to reserve your place!



### TOUR I. CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

A day at the Science Center is filled with science adventures, guaranteed to ignite the “wow! hmm... aha!” in all of us. Visit the Science Center to experience four floors of interactive exhibits. See an Omnimax movie on the BIGGEST screen in Pittsburgh! Explore the galaxy without ever leaving the North Shore at the Buhl Planetarium. Watch hair-raising live shows and discover an array of programs for every age.



### TOUR II. SMITHFIELD FOODS 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Smithfield is a global packaged meats company with farms, facilities, and offices in North America and Europe. They employ 50,000 people who all work together to provide families worldwide with Good food. Responsibly.®

### TOUR III. CARNEGIE UNIVERSITY 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Tour Carnegie Mellon University, the private, global university, is set on challenging the curious and passionate to imagine and deliver work that matters. One of the birthplaces of innovation from cutting-edge brain science to drive-less cars CMU is ready to create the future by solving real world problems. In its 115 years, Carnegie Mellon has soared to national and international leadership in higher education and research. Vast alumni of CMU span across the world as CEOs, entrepreneurs, professors, Nobel Prize, Tony Award winners.

**Carnegie  
Mellon  
University**

## JR. MANRRS WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### I. WHO'S MAKING OUR FOOD

Expose students to the science of plant breeding and how it impacts our everyday lives.

### II. STEAM - POWERING THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

We would provide them with a topic or challenge (i.e. Urban Agriculture), where the participants would experience a “mini” version of the USDA STEAM Summer Camp through experience-driven learning opportunities, to increase the knowledge of and ability to work with data. We plan to show how if such interest and excitement and confidence can be kindled, the odds will go up that the students will make course and even career choices touching on data and agriculture. We will also provide information on the Global Open Data And Nutrition (GODAN) efforts that shows the value of MANRRS students to focus on international and global opportunities.

### III. SKILLS TO PAY THE BILLS

“Skills to Pay the Bills: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success,” was developed to teach “soft” or workforce readiness skills to youth, including youth with disabilities. This workshop will serve as an introduction and reminder of the importance of interpersonal and professional skills. The six key skill areas of focus are: communication, enthusiasm and attitude, teamwork, networking, problem solving and critical thinking, and professionalism. Of the six key skills, communication will be the focus of this workshop. Participants will practice and recognize how they provide information to others, but also help them consider how others may prefer to receive information. It will be reinforced that communication skills involve give and take — and they can, indeed, be learned and strengthened over time.

### IV. INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Jr. MANRRS advisors, high school teachers and administrators are encouraged to attend this workshop in order to learn about international education and project-based service learning opportunities.

## JR. MANRRS STUDENT COMPETITIONS

Jr. MANRRS Contest Deadline is **March 1, 2017**.

All entries must be submitted online at

<http://info.manrrs.org/2017-contest-submission>

Contest guidelines can also be found on this website.



### JR. MANRRS WRITTEN ESSAY

This contest is for high school students to prepare a clear, concise, and well thought out essay that discusses the theme of the conference. This contest provides an opportunity for students to gain experience in expressing themselves through writing. Essays will be judged and winners selected prior to the conference.

**Awards:**

1st Place: \$125 and a certificate

2nd Place: \$75 and a certificate

3rd Place: \$50 and a certificate

### JR. MANRRS PUBLIC SPEAKING

This contest is for high school students who submit and deliver a speech that will be rated on content, style, and clarity of expression, power of expression, voice, stage presence, organization, and logic. Participation in this contest will give students skills in public speaking, written communication, organizing information, leadership, and communicating in an interactive setting.

**Awards:**

1st Place: \$125 and a certificate

2nd Place: \$75 and a certificate

3rd Place: \$50 and a certificate

### JR. MANRRS IMPROMPTU SPEAKING

The MANRRS Impromptu Public Speaking Contest is designed to develop the ability of all MANRRS members to express themselves on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. This gives the MANRRS members an opportunity to formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited amount of time. The event requires students to think on their feet, state their case quickly and persuasively, and to be able to answer relevant questions based upon their presentation

**Awards:**

1st Place: \$125 and a certificate

2nd Place: \$75 and a certificate

3rd Place: \$50 and a certificate



The future of agricultural, natural resources, and related sciences lies in the hands of our young people. To assist young people in understanding how agricultural and related sciences permeate their daily lives, it is critical that we start early. MANRRS Jr. MANRRS Committee and USDA ARS encourage full participation of the youth in the greater Pittsburgh and surrounding areas in planned activities and programs geared toward exposing them to the National MANRRS Society and the many opportunities available in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. During this celebration of the 32nd Annual Career Fair and Training Conference, many components will be devoted to local high school students and Jr. MANRRS Members.

## HIGH SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM—FEE: \$10.00/INCLUDES LUNCH 9:00 AM -2:00 PM

The High School Symposium will allow high school students from the Pittsburgh area to participate in interactive workshops and discussions on leadership skills, networking, preparing for college, and opportunities in agricultural and natural science fields. Students also will have ample opportunities to visit and interact with MANRRS student officers and members. The Jr. MANRRS Committee would like to help you prepare for college and discover cutting-edge careers available in food, agriculture, bioscience, natural resources, and technology.

## PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 AM	Registration
9:30 AM	Opening Session Welcome Rally featuring the Science Cheerleaders
10:00 AM	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Dr. Robert Walker, National Institute of Health
10:20 AM	Break
10:30 AM	What was in the Message? Effective Communication
11:30 AM	Vision Board: This session is designed to help future leaders tap into their creativity to begin to recognize their vision that aligns with their talent, values and long-term goals.
12:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM	Diversity and Differences: This exercise is designed to increase awareness of individuals that are differently abled. Discuss how they felt, understanding and respecting differences.
1:30 PM	The Importance of Internships and Mentoring (Parents/Guardians)
2:00 PM	Visit to a Pittsburgh Tourist Location (TBD)

THURSDAY, MARCH 30TH



**(I) THE ROAD TO SUCCESS:  
NAVIGATING CAREERS IN THE  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

**Track: Professional Development**

This informative workshop will provide students with the tools needed to successfully navigate the application process for jobs with the federal government. Moreover, students will increase their selection potential with tips learned in this seminar.

**MOCK INTERVIEWING WITH  
INDUSTRY PARTNERS**

2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

**(II) FACING THE COMPETITION**

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

**Track: Diversity, Cultural Awareness & Human Relations**

This session will provide testimonies and tips on how to compete in a competitive world and in a competitive field without the malice. High level executives will provide 15 minute testimonies of how they succeeded in the positions and moved forward throughout their career. This is not a one stop shop, but layering and mapping your success according to you.

**ELITE SCHOLARS**

**Minimum GPA: 3.3 cumulative**

MANRRS will provide an unique opportunity throughout the conference for Elite Scholars, including both undergraduate and graduate students, to interact exclusively with industry executives. Chapter Advisors are required to identify scholars from their respective chapter.

**BUSINESS CARD EXCHANGE  
EXCLUSIVE NETWORKING EVENT**

8:15 PM - 9:00 PM

ELITE SCHOLARS ONLY

**STUDENT AND CHAPTER  
COMPETITIONS**

8:30 PM - 10:30 PM

FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST

**STUDENT MIXER – CULTURAL  
LINE DANCE CHALLENGE**

9:00 PM - 10:30 PM

**BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE  
DISCUSSION**

7:00 AM - 8:15 AM

ELITE SCHOLARS ONLY

**STUDENT AND CHAPTER  
COMPETITIONS**

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

**MY MANRRS STUDENT JOURNEY**

8:45 AM – 9:50 AM

JR. MANRRS AND FRESHMEN WORKSHOP

SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS WORKSHOP

SENIORS AND GRADUATE STUDENTS WORKSHOP

Sessions separated by student classifications aimed to provide invaluable information on how to maximize your MANRRS experience and grow as a servant leader.

**BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES & SOCIAL  
SCIENCES ORAL RESEARCH  
SYMPOSIUMS**

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

**STUDENT AND CHAPTER  
COMPETITIONS**

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT  
MEETING**

**GRADUATE STUDENT MEETING**

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

**MANRRS GOT TALENT & AFTER  
PARTY – FEATURING PROFESSIONALS & STUDENTS**

9:30 PM – 11:30 PM





**SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST**

**NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FORUM &  
BUSINESS MEETING (CHAPTER DELEGATES)**  
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM



## **WORKSHOP SESSION A** **10:10 AM – 11:00 AM**

### **(A1) SET YOURSELF APART FROM THE PACK (ELITE SCHOLARS ONLY)**

**Track: Personal Development**

This interactive training session will help you stand out from the rest whether through your resume or cover letters, your career fair interaction or when interviewing for internships or full-time roles. Come ask recruiters their thoughts so you know what they expect from you!

### **(A2) DIFFERENTIATING YOUR TALENT IN THE JOB MARKET (ELITE SCHOLARS ONLY)**

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

How do you differentiate yourself and your talent in a competitive job market? What are some of the core competencies that employers are looking for? How do you develop those core competencies? Where do you find out more about these competencies, master them, and differentiate yourself? You start with this workshop! Led by a team of experienced industry insiders, this workshop will address some of the important and proven ways of differentiating your talent in a very competitive job market. The workshop is interactive and will include audience participation and real-life experiences.

### **(A3) GROWING TOMORROW'S AGRICULTURAL PROFESSIONALS**

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

Introduction to Agricultural Finance discipline, opportunities, and professional growth.

### **(A4) HAVING A CAREER IN VETERINARY MEDICINE: FROM THE VETERINARY STUDENT APPLICANT TO THE VETERINARIAN**

**Track: Animal Science/Wildlife**

Having a career in veterinary medicine is a dream for many, however once you get to the application process of veterinary school, many decide to take another route. During this session, we will discuss the successes of

being the best applicant for veterinary school. Also, once accepted into veterinary school, some may not want to go towards the traditional veterinary practice route of working in a clinic or hospital. We will finish the session with discussing exciting veterinary career paths many have taken...even being an astronaut!

### **(A5) DEMYSTIFYING THE GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS: HOW TO EFFECTIVELY CRAFT A GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATION PACKET**

**Track: Educational Development**

Are you interested in attending graduate school, but you're not sure where to start? Get started on the right foot and learn keys to success from an individual who is well-versed in the graduate school application process. Attendees can expect to gain practical skills such as writing an effective personal statement, requesting an effective letter of recommendation, and making contact with faculty at prospective institutions.

### **(A6) CULTURAL IMMERSION IN THE IFYE GLOBAL RURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

**Track: International/Globalization**

The future of Agriculture encompasses international leadership, exploration and development. The IFYE program helps individuals develop leadership abilities and critical thinking skills through a 'boots on the ground' environment. Change begins with understanding cultural differences. When exposed to different ways of life, expanded thinking, viewpoints, tolerance, cooperation and potential alternate career paths are achieved. Becoming a 'family member' enables both the delegate and the host family to positively dispel stereotypes, change people's lives and broaden our hopes and dreams.

### **(A7) IS YOUR RESUME PUBLIC SERVICE READY?**

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

Young adults entering the work force often question how to create the best resume for employers and are often given conflicting advice. "Make sure your resume includes all the work that you've done so the employer is knowledgeable of your diverse experience," "Include your references," "Don't include your references, those should only be presented upon request!" The list of do's and don'ts go on and on, so we're here to put an end to the conflicting guidance. The presentation will entail indepth instructions on how to create and sustain the most attractive federal resume and also ways young adults can effectively utilize USAJOBS.gov tools.

### **(A8) HOW TO BE YOUR OWN BEST MENTOR – PT.I (GRADUATE STUDENTS)**

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

This workshop is a two-part workshop curriculum developed on mentoring including "Mentoring Up" and "Mentoring a Diverse Workforce." The "Own Best Mentor" workshop is targeted at students, postdocs and early career faculty.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1ST

## WORKSHOP SESSION B 11:10 AM – 12:10 PM

### (B1) HOW LEADERS LEAD

(ELITE SCHOLARS ONLY)

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

This workshop is designed to provide students and professionals with an overview of the different leadership styles present in today's workplace. Throughout the session, participants will uncover their personal leadership styles and its strengths and weaknesses. Participants will also discover how they can lead even if they are not in true leadership positions.

### (B2) CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW? BUILDING COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR CONNECTIONS IN COLLEGE AND CAREER (ELITE SCHOLARS ONLY)

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

The ability to effectively convey and understand information is imperative in our global society. This highly interactive workshop will review the basics of how humans communicate and how we can improve upon our skills in order to understand and understand others. We will examine common mistakes and their resolutions. Participants will learn the top communication styles of top leaders in their respective industries and what makes a message successful. Participants will work together to learn how to improve their messages both oral and written to impact their personal brand.

### (B3) CAN I BE MYSELF IN THE WORKPLACE?

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

"Is it ok to talk about this at work?" "What should I wear to this company dinner?" "Was that joke a little too far?" In the workplace, there are many uncomfortable interactions. As professionals, it is vital we stay aware of the spoken and unspoken communication rules. Come, learn and discuss what's appropriate and what is not.

### (B4) ATTENTION STUDENTS: MONEY DOES GROW ON TREES!

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

Inspiration leads to Motivation leads to Progress leads to Success. In this interactive and introductory workshop, we will focus on the intersection of grantsmanship and scholarly funding equipped with the rules of rhetoric. This engagement will provide participants with the opportunity to identify potential benefactors on their path to achieving academic, research, and community project success. Furthermore, we will complete a mini-grant on site during the workshop in order to enhance the attendees' understanding, comfort, and proficiency. This program is designed to address the severe knowledge and access gap to funding sources across the nation. This gap hinders or derails underrepresented individuals and underserved communities from becoming inspired

or motivated, leading to a lack of progress and a greater disparity in minority success, especially in education, agripreneurships, and numerous social opportunities. Lastly, this workshop will challenge participants through a team building activity geared towards completing an online grant application.

### (B5) EXPANDING POSSIBILITIES WITH AGRICORPS

**Track: International/Globalization**

AgriCorps is an organization taking agricultural professionals and placing them into experiential, school-based agricultural education in developing countries. In this workshop, participants will hear about opportunities and success stories with AgriCorps. Also, participants will be share their personal stories, development philosophy, as well as discuss cultural scenarios.

### (B6) CHANGE LIVES! MAKE A DIFFERENCE! SHARE YOUR PASSION! #TEACHAG

**Track: Ag Education & Communication/Consumer & Social Sciences**

Do you love agriculture and people? Do you want to learn something new every day? Do you want to serve as a role model? Do you want to make a positive difference in your community? If you said yes to any of these, then you should become an agriculture teacher! Find out more about the BEST.JOB.EVER by attending this fun and interactive workshop.

### (B7) BUNGE CASE STUDY CHALLENGE

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

Do you like analyzing situations? Finding solutions? Then join Bunge representatives as they discuss the business case study challenge scenario, practical solutions and resolution techniques. Individuals from participating chapters are encouraged to attend.

### (B8) HOW TO BE YOUR OWN BEST MENTOR – PT.II (GRADUATE STUDENTS)

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

Description Above. Attendance is required at Session A8.



## WORKSHOP SESSION C 2:15 PM – 3:15 PM

### (C1) DEVELOPING PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL RESILIENCY

(ELITE SCHOLARS ONLY)

#### Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills

You'll learn what resilience is and become aware of your own resiliency. We'll offer strategies and tools, which will help you manage your personal experience with change and thrive instead of just surviving change. As a college student, change is all around you: friends, classes, relationships, majors, pressures on obtaining that first position, and various pressures on what you "should" be doing. You will hear from Land O'Lakes on how to navigate and thrive in your college career.

### (C2) THE IMPORTANCE OF SOFT SKILLS

(ELITE SCHOLARS ONLY)

#### Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills

Why are soft skills so valuable? "Soft Skill," is the new buzz phrase and sometimes referred to as "professional skills," are necessary tools to exercise in daily activities. These essential tools help with critical thinking situations, understanding the business, and finding a solution to the most pressing issues. They are valuable to you and to any organization, and it is vital to keep them in practice.

### (C3) WHEN PIGS FLY – INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL TRAVEL AND ANIMAL HEALTH

#### Track: Animal Science/Wildlife

This session will include discussion of how and why animal health requirements are established for both livestock and companion animals moving internationally. We will discuss the role of the private practitioner in certifying animal health as well as the role of the regulatory veterinarian. We will work through a scenario to allow students to practice reviewing health requirements, completing the documentation, and reviewing the documentation.

### (C4) ETHICAL LEADERSHIP

#### Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills

Leading by knowing and doing what is right. Through the Ethical Leadership workshop, you will learn about your ethical leadership style and identify ways of enhancing your ethical management skills.

### (C5) NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE SUSTAINABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

#### Track: Natural & Environmental Resources/Forestry

This workshop will discuss research on the role of natural resources such as green space (e.g. parks, urban forests, etc.) on the sustainability of the urban environment. We will provide particular attention discussing the benefits of urban green spaces on environmental quality as well as human health and well-being. This interactive workshop will inform the audience on contemporary research, provide insight on strategic partnerships to advance the

science, and build strategic collaborations. The session is beneficial for students and professionals involved in a range of fields such as environmental science, urban ecology, demography, and public health.

### (C6) YOU, INC.

#### Track: Personal Development

How can YOU stand out in today's competitive job market? This workshop will cover the concept of personal brand, and how having a distinctive brand identity can benefit you. Good grades, extracurricular activities and a professional resume alone are not a guarantee you'll get your dream job. Your personal brand differentiates you from the crowd and is the value proposition you have to offer. We will provide guidelines to help shape the compelling story of you, including tips for delivering a memorable elevator pitch; a concise introduction of self.

### (C7) APHIS FOREIGN SERVICE WORKSHOP – SCULPTING AND NURTURING DIVERSE LEADERS WORLDWIDE

#### Track: International/Globalization

The world is an exciting place. Agricultural issues affect trade, science, politics, and the economy. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is part of that world. Through its Foreign Service, APHIS safeguards the agriculture of the United States, expands the trade opportunities of domestic farmers through capacity building activities, and weighs in on scientific agricultural policy. This workshop will show MANRRS participants how to join this exciting and ever changing world. Preparation is the first step for this type of career. MANRRS participants will have the opportunity to hear about these Foreign Service careers, ask questions, and learn about the skills and qualities needed to set them apart from the others as they go forward in the process to become an APHIS Foreign Service Officer.

### (C8) THE THREE MINUTE THESIS: DEVELOPING STRATEGIES TO MARKET YOUR GRADUATE RESEARCH

(GRADUATE STUDENTS)

#### Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills

The three minute thesis is essentially the elevator speech for graduate students. The goal of the three minute thesis workshop is to help students develop a thorough yet concise elevator pitch to describe their research. This is an essential skill students will need rather it be interviewing for jobs, or presenting their findings at various venues. Students must discuss with comprehension and clarity - the objectives, hypothesis, methods, and results (or expected results) of their research in a three-minute time frame.



## WORKSHOP SESSION D 3:25 PM – 4:25 PM

### (D1) CAREERS IN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT (ELITE SCHOLARS ONLY)

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

Supply chain management might seem pretty self-explanatory, but there's more to it than meets the eye. Let's discuss what exactly it is and, more importantly, what kinds of degrees and skills are needed to lead to a great career.

### (D2) IT'S LIT (LEADERS IN TRAINING)! TIPS FOR ENSURING A SUCCESSFUL INTERNSHIP (ELITE SCHOLARS ONLY)

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

Current USDA interns will provide tips and advice on making the most of your internship experience. This session is devoted to students hearing first hand from current USDA interns about how to get the most out of an internship or summer work experience. Conversation topics will include how to set yourself apart from your peers, professional interactions and behavior, and communication tips.

### (D3) GIFT OF GAB: KEYS TO COMMUNICATION

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

This workshop focuses on soft skills, specifically communication techniques and the application of its tools. Interactive activities include breakout groups to discuss struggles and stereotypes with public speaking, a communication game to sell and market every day items, and facilitate an extemporaneous debate with Agriculture-related issues and controversies to apply how to use communication in professional, cultural and global settings.

### (D4) DOES YOUR MONEY MAKE \$ENSE?

**Track: Ag Education & Communication**

Do you own a credit card? Are you thinking about getting a credit card? Do you have student loans? Well, this informational session is for you! In recent news, CreditCards.com reported that among soon-to-be college graduates who had a credit card in April 2016, 33% made a late payment, 31% maxed out a card, 23% card declined and 15% missed a payment. Some 30 percent of grads-to-be possessed credit card debt, and the average balance was \$2,573. Our presentation will include lessons and advice for young adults entering the work-force about ways to improve their financial literacy, so they are able to make responsible decisions regarding their money. We're here to help your money make \$ense!

### (D5) WHAT WOULD YOU DO? IN THIS INTERVIEW!

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

The students will drop their resume and transcript in the box, when entering the session. Three interviewers will ask several questions to the panel on the spot. This session is designed to help us become better professionals when interviewing for a job, or changing career fields all together. The idea of "What would you do," comes from the fact we all assume we

would answer a question in a certain way or ready to react a certain way, except now everyone is watching. I would like for students to understand the concept of being ready to think and professional regardless of the situation.

### (D6) NAVIGATING YOUR WAY TO USDA EMPLOYMENT

**Track: Professional Development/Soft Skills**

Preparing yourself academically for the workplace and knowing what is needed to identify as a strong candidate are important. This workshop will provide participants with information on employment opportunities within USDA, strategies for positioning for a USDA job and key pointers on how to apply for a USDA job.

### (D7) BIOTECH & ECONOMICS: CLINICAL TRANSLATION

**Track: Ag Business/Economics/Finance**

This workshop session introduces participants to a solid understanding of the biotechnology industry. The presentation will integrate the fundamental concepts of science and business, and apply that knowledge to the biotech industry. Participants will receive handouts providing information on how to evaluate and act on opportunities, which arise in the biotech field including jobs and internships. We will also identify and address the critical issues facing biotech organizations. This workshop should help agricultural and natural science majors assess and expand their interest in Biotech and Economics in a Healthcare setting.

### (D8) THE ACADEMY, CORPORATE OR GOVERNMENT: PUTTING YOUR DOCTORATE TO WORK FOR YOU

(GRADUATE STUDENTS)

**Track: Personal Development**

Obtaining a doctorate is a rewarding experience. However, deciding on the appropriate career path is a challenge. With so many changes in today's job market, an earned doctorate can now offer a lot more flexibility than in years' past. What was seen as a pathway to the "Ivory Tower" is now used to carve out a meaningful career within a host of areas beyond the research, teaching and extension/outreach missions at a university. This session will comprise of an interactive panel discussion including MANRRS professionals with doctoral degrees who have successfully obtained and thrived in an array of careers, from academia to federal government, and to Fortune 500 companies. This discussion will include the importance of finding good mentors; why it's never wise to underestimate the power of self-awareness, and key steps in navigating one's chosen career.



## MANRRS STUDENT COMPETITIONS

\*The following contests will be held on Thursday evening: Public Speaking, Impromptu Speaking, MANRRS Bowl and Chapter of the Year Award (COYA). All students should be prepared to compete upon arrival. There will be no practice time or space available.

**Electronic submission is REQUIRED.** All entries must be submitted online at <http://info.manrrs.org/2017-contest-submission>. Contest guidelines can also be found on this website.

Contests are open to all undergraduate or graduate students who are members of MANRRS through chapter or independent membership. Names must appear on the national register in the office of the membership chair before the contest deadline: **January 31, 2017**. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners for each contest will receive a check and framed certificate. The winner of the Public Speaking Contest winner will to present his/her winning speech at the Gala Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening.

### BUNGE CASE STUDY CHAPTER CHALLENGE (NEW)

Do you like analyzing situations? Finding solutions? Winning cash for your MANRRS chapter? Participate in the MANRRS Case Study Contest, sponsored by Bunge. Analyze and solve a business case related to the agribusiness industry. Details will be sent to all registered chapters. Registration is required for participation. Bunge expert representatives will judge all entries and the top three submissions will earn prizes for their chapters. Participation is limited to 20 chapters. First-come, first-served for teams of four or less, open to graduate and undergraduate students. One entry per chapter.

**Awards:**

- 1st Place: \$2,500
- 2nd Place: \$1,500
- 3rd Place: \$1,000

### 1. ELEVATOR SPEECH (NEW CONTEST)

With the support of our national sponsor, Bayer, MANRRS will conduct the first annual elevator speech contest. A preliminary contest was held at each regional cluster and finals will occur at the national conference. The purpose of the elevator speech contest is to sell the brand of MANRRS to the judges and audience. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

### 2. MANRRS BOWL\*

MANRRS Bowl is a chapter competition designed to increase and test the knowledge of Members on MANRRS History and topics with regard to food, agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences. Additionally, the competition promotes teamwork and encourages Regional pride.

### 3. BUSINESS PITCH

Have an idea for new business or non-profit you'd like to start? Then enter the first ever MANRRS Pitch Competition! You will have five minutes onstage to describe your idea, and why you think it will change the world as we know it. Your business doesn't have to exist just yet, but the idea and pitch have to relate to agriculture, natural resources and/or environmental businesses or non-profits. Think "Shark Tank" meets MANRRS! But instead of asking for investment, our judges will award the top presenter(s) in each section \$500 in prize money and a mentoring session with one of the distinguished judges.

Eligibility: The pitch competition will have two sections:

- a. Undergraduates who are members of MANRRS
- b. Graduate Students or Professionals who are members of MANRRS

Applications are from individuals or teams of up to four people. However, only one person will present to the judges at the National Conference.

**Awards:**

- 1st Place UG Division: \$500
- 1st Place: GR/Professional Division: \$500



#### 4. UNDERGRADUATE ORAL RESEARCH (DIVISION I – BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES)

#### 5. UNDERGRADUATE ORAL RESEARCH (DIVISION II – EDUCATION, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND BUSINESS)

#### 6. GRADUATE ORAL RESEARCH (DIVISION I – BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES)

#### 7. GRADUATE ORAL RESEARCH (DIVISION II – EDUCATION, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND BUSINESS)

These contests are for undergraduate and graduate students to gain experience and exposure by presenting their research project orally before an audience of their peers and professional members. The research presented must be work that the student member has conducted and must be agricultural or in one of the related sciences. The chapter advisor or the student's faculty research advisor (if there is no MANRRS chapter) must certify the research. Each presentation will be limited to 10 minutes.

Participants in the contests are required to be enrolled students at the time of the conference and must be in attendance.

##### Awards:

1st Place: \$300 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$200 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$150 and a certificate

#### 8. GRADUATE RESEARCH POSTER (DIVISION I – BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES) (DIVISION II – EDUCATION, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND BUSINESS)

#### 9. UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH POSTER (DIVISION I – BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES) (DIVISION II – EDUCATION, SOCIAL SCIENCES AND BUSINESS)

This contest is now open to graduate and undergraduate students to gain experience and exposure before an audience, while highlighting the research work that they are doing. Research presented must be work the student has conducted and be related to agriculture or a related science. The student's faculty research advisor must certify that the research is the work of the presenter. Posters can be entered as competitive or noncompetitive. Entries may not be duplicated and entered in the Graduate Student Oral Research Contest or Undergraduate Student Oral Research Contest.

Presenters are required to be undergraduate or graduate students at the time of the conference and must be in attendance at the conference. Each contest will have a set of winners.

##### Awards:

1st Place: \$300 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$200 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$150 and a certificate

#### 10. RESEARCH DISCUSSION

This contest is for undergraduate and graduate students who are members of MANRRS through chapter or independent membership and focuses on interactive communication processes using research-based material. The goal is for participants to demonstrate a higher level of competence in oral communications, learn to present research information in an interactive setting, develop critical thinking skills, and show an ability to handle information. Participation in the contest will help undergraduates and graduates prepare for the real world work place, obtain leadership and management activity skills, and learn more about current research issues and topics.

The Research Discussion Contest will involve 5 to 12 participants in a structured group activity; however, participants will be judged on individual performance. Selected research material will be made available to the participants in advance. Discussion participants will be selected through an essay competition as determined by preliminary judges. Three research discussion questions derived from the reading material will be provided to the contestants in advance. Participants are free to do research and study other materials on the topic to prepare them better for discussing the topic.

##### Awards:

1st Place: \$300 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$200 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$150 and a certificate

#### 11. WRITTEN ESSAY

This contest is for undergraduate students to prepare a clear, concise, and well thought out essay that discusses the theme of the conference. This contest provides an opportunity for students to gain experience in expressing themselves through writing. Essays will be judged and winners selected prior to the conference.

##### Awards:

1st Place: \$300 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$200 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$150 and a certificate





## 12. \*PUBLIC SPEAKING (EVENING SESSION)

This contest is for undergraduate students who submit and deliver a speech that will be rated on content, style, and clarity of expression, power of expression, voice, stage presence, organization, and logic. Participation in this contest will give students skills in public speaking, written communication, organizing information, leadership, and communicating in an interactive setting. The winner of the Public Speaking Contest will give his/her winning speech at the Closing Gala Dinner to be held on Saturday, April 1, 2017.

### Awards:

1st Place: \$300 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$200 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$150 and a certificate

## 13. \*CHAPTER OF THE YEAR (EVENING SESSION)

The MANRRS Chapter of the Year Award (COYA) competition was designed to promote leadership development among local chapters. Such development should further the goals and objectives of the National Society, as well as promote professional growth among local student members. The chapters will be selected and rated on the following:

- Building chapter membership,
- Leadership development,
- Community service, and
- Promotion of the National Society.

Chapters competing in this contest should develop a Chapter Annual Plan of Work or Calendar of Activities. The winner receives a trophy, and the chapter's name is engraved on the National COYA plaque that is held by the winner until the next conference.

### Awards:

Five Regional Winners: \$200 and a certificate  
Outstanding New Chapter: \$200 and a certificate  
National COYA Winner: \$1,000 and trophy

## 14. 2018 NATIONAL THEME

The MANRRS Executive Committee solicits your assistance in seeking suggestions for the MANRRS 2018 Conference theme. Any MANRRS member is encouraged to submit suggestions. All suggested themes should be related to the goals and objectives of MANRRS as the

organization proceeds through the new millennium. Thank you for assisting us in preparing for MANRRS 2018 33rd Annual Conference. The theme for the 2018 conference will be announced at the 2017 conference.

### Award:

The individual submitting the winning theme will be awarded \$250 and framed certificate.

## 15. \*IMPROMPTU SPEAKING (EVENING SESSION)

The MANRRS Impromptu Public Speaking Contest is designed to develop the ability of all MANRRS members to express himself or herself on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. This provides the MANRRS members an opportunity to gain public speaking skills and effective quick and critical thinking as they formulate their remarks for presentation in a very limited amount of time. The event requires students to think on their feet, state their case quickly and persuasively, and to be able to answer relevant questions from the audience and judges based upon their presentation. Regional winners were selected from the regional clusters and compete in the national competition.

### Awards:

1st Place: \$300 and a certificate  
2nd Place: \$200 and a certificate  
3rd Place: \$150 and a certificate

## 16. AGRICULTURE AND SCIENCE PHOTOGRAPHY

This contest is open to individuals and chapters. The purpose of the MANRRS Agriculture and Science Photography Contest is to provide MANRRS members and Chapters with the opportunity to express their love for agriculture and science in an artistic fashion.

### Awards:

- The overall first place individual winner will have his/her winning photograph published on the front cover of the 32nd Annual Career Fair and Training Conference Program.
- The overall first place Chapter winner will have their winning photograph published on the back cover of the 32nd Annual Career Fair and Training Conference Program.
- The first and second runner up photograph will be published in the MANRRS 32nd Annual Career Fair and Training Conference Program.
- Winners shall be notified at least two weeks prior to the 32nd Annual Career Fair and Training Conference.
- Certificates of Excellence will be provided to the winners at the conference.



# WELCOME TO PITTSBURGH!

## MANRRS

### 32<sup>ND</sup> CONFERENCE CELEBRATION

Pittsburgh is a city in western Pennsylvania at the junction of 3 rivers. The city is located at the union of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, which form the Ohio River. According to the United States Census Bureau, the population estimates, in July 1, 2015, at 304,391. It is the 20th-largest city in the United States. Pittsburgh is known as both “the Steel City” for its more than 300 steel-related businesses, and as the “City of Bridges” for its 446 bridges. The city features 30 skyscrapers, two inclines, a pre-revolutionary fortification and the Point State Park at the union of the rivers. Pittsburgh is one of the few American cities to be spelled with an h at the end of a burg suffix. From 1890 to 1911 the city’s “h” was removed but, after a public campaign, it was officially restored by the United States Board on Geographic Names. Pittsburgh was named in 1758 by General John Forbes, in honor of British statesman William Pitt, 1st Earl of Chatham. Pittsburgh is the second largest city in the U.S. state of Pennsylvania, USA.

The area has served also as the long-time federal agency headquarters for cyber defense, software engineering, robotics, energy research and the nuclear navy. The area is home to 68 colleges and universities, including research and development leaders Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh. The nation’s fifth-largest bank, eight Fortune 500 companies, and six of the top 300 US law firms make their global headquarters in the Pittsburgh area, while RAND, BNY Mellon, Nova, FedEx, Bayer and NIOSH have regional bases that helped Pittsburgh become the sixth-best area for U.S. job growth. The region is also a hub for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, sustainable energy, and energy extraction.

Its Gilded Age sites, including the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, the Carnegie Museum of Art and the Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, speak to its history as an early-20th-century industrial capital. In the North Shore neighborhood are the modern Andy Warhol Museum, Heinz Field football stadium and PNC Park baseball stadium.

[WWW.MANRRS.ORG](http://WWW.MANRRS.ORG)

