

SCHOOL of AGRICULTURE and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

STRATEGIC PLAN

{ INTRODUCTION }

THE “STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES”

is a cohesive vision for our preferred future in the food, agricultural, family and environmental sciences. This plan has grown out of discussions and listening sessions with individuals from throughout North Carolina and emanated from reviews of the national goals of the United States Department of Agriculture, the needs of the state, faculty expertise and interest. “A&T Preeminence 2020,” the University’s long-term strategic plan that was implemented to chart out a nine-year course for the University in 2011, is the primary guide for selecting the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences overarching objectives for establishing mutually beneficial partnerships with businesses, corporations, foundations, industry and governmental agencies. These objectives were also identified to give SAES added guidance in

the allocation of resources, and to provide a focus for ongoing efforts to assure public awareness of the SAES and North Carolina A&T State University. This plan also recognizes that North Carolina A&T must be positioned to respond rapidly and effectively to emerging issues that affect the profitability and sustainability of North Carolina agriculture, now and in the years ahead. As such, SAES’s growth strategy will be to maintain current strengths while expanding into the new strategic areas.

The Strategic Plan’s overarching objective is to position the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences to build on the legacy of 1890 Land-Grant Institutions to respond to contemporary issues pertaining to more sustainable agricultural production; quality of life for individuals, families and communities; small and limited resource farms; and food distribution systems.

Specific objectives

- Major contributions to the development of new rural and urban localized food supply chain infrastructures;
- Teaching, research and Extension that fosters development of strong families and communities through various teaching, research and outreach endeavors;
- Broad-based community stewardship to further address inequalities in financial resources;
- Educational research and Extension outreach and engagement to identify concerns and generate solutions; and
- Educational opportunities and research programs that benefit communities throughout North Carolina, the nation and the world, through our local food & health initiatives.

Background

Agriculture and agribusiness have guided the economy of North Carolina since its beginnings. Even our state seal, which features a cornucopia, recognizes the importance of agriculture to our state. Agriculture and agribusiness remain the leading industries

in North Carolina, contributing nearly \$78 billion annually to the state’s economy. Agriculture and agribusiness employ more than 16 percent of the state’s workforce, and account for about 17 percent of the state’s income.*

As a land-grant university, North Carolina A&T has an inherent responsibility to offer broad curricula with a blend of liberal and practical education; to conduct basic and applied research for the public interest; and to disseminate scientific and practical knowledge through Cooperative Extension and other outreach programs. When North Carolina A&T first opened its doors in 1891, the academic roots of what would later become the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (SAES) were already forming. Today, more than 11 decades later, we are adhering to our land-grant roots of teaching, research and Extension while concurrently transforming the SAES into an interdisciplinary unit that is attracting a larger and more diverse student body. The SAES’s portfolio is strengthened through partnerships and collaborations with other schools and colleges on campus, as well as with stakeholder organizations throughout the state, nation and world.

Our programs in the food, agricultural, family and environmental sciences have continued to grow in the breadth of curriculum and student enrollment since the first baccalaureate program was offered in 1918, and the first master's program in agricultural education in 1940. Although there have been many shifts in the SAES's guiding principles over the years, our core principles have always included a commitment to instilling a sense of value and purpose in our students, and to vigilantly seek out solutions for pressing social and scientific issues with our Extension activities and research projects.

The SAES will use this Strategic Plan to advance the land-grant mission of catalyzing positive change that improves the quality of life for all North Carolinians. SAES faculty, staff and students share a common bond through their sincere desire to learn and serve others. We desire each individual to experience the SAES as a place to excel, think critically and creatively, communicate

effectively and put knowledge to work. The SAES will forever be a place that inspires the spirit of scholarship, collaboration and excellence.

Our Vision

The School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences shall be a premiere learner-centered community that develops and preserves intellectual capital in the food, agricultural, family and environmental sciences through interdisciplinary learning, discovery and engagement.

Our Mission

The School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences provides opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds to achieve excellence in the food, agricultural, family and environmental sciences through exemplary and integrative instruction, and through scholarly, creative and effective research and Extension programs.

Our Core Values

SHARED LEADERSHIP

SAES values share governance, responsibilities and decision-making.

INTEGRITY & HONESTY

SAES values trust, trustworthiness, honesty and ethical behavior. SAES deeds will be consistent with our words.

RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

SAES values civility among individuals and fosters diverse viewpoints and opinions. Employees strive for daily interpersonal relations that demonstrate commitments to treating all persons with fairness, dignity, caring, quality and compassion.

COLLABORATION

SAES values working with a broad range of constituencies to bring synergy and diverse viewpoints to the University. SAES works hard to forge alliances and equitable partnerships across public and private sectors in pursuit of preparing, finding and implementing solutions.

DIVERSITY

SAES values and respects diversity, and works to empower all employees and students to function inclusively and effectively in a multicultural world. SAES is committed to protecting and advancing the interests of diverse populations and cultures and acceptance of others without biases based on differences of any kind.

INNOVATION/CREATIVITY

SAES values and uses science and technology to strengthen and advance the food, agricultural, family and environmental sciences. Critical thinking, inquiry-based learning, scientific knowledge and practical application are hallmarks of SAES work and programs. SAES encourages and challenges employees and students to find and implement solutions to existing problems and create new economic opportunities.

GLOBAL AWARENESS

SAES values globalization and encourages staff and students to think globally in preparation for today's fast-moving and ever-changing world, and to better serve our constituencies.

*Data current as of August 2015



School of Agriculture *and* Environmental Sciences
**NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL
AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY**

