



INFAS

Inter-institutional Network for
Food, Agriculture, and Sustainability

2022-2023

Annual Report

Table of contents:

Executive Committee updates.....	1
2023-2024 Executive Committee.....	2
Past year	
General work.....	3
Awards.....	4
Working groups.....	5
Fellowship programs.....	6
Upcoming year.....	7-8
Financial report.....	9
Gratitude.....	10



Executive Committee Updates

This summer we welcomed three new EC members as our EC chair, Dr. Christine Porter, Justice Working Group chair, Dr. Julie Grossman, and Education Working Group chair, Dr. Damian Parr, finished their last terms in the EC.

- All three of these EC members played instrumental roles towards the re-organization process INFAS underwent in 2020, among numerous other projects, and will be greatly missed on the EC.

New to these roles are:

- **Dr. Brandy Phipps (EC Chair)**, an Associate Professor at Central State University in the Department of Agricultural and Life Sciences and a researcher in the Agriculture Research Development Program.
- **Dr. Lindsey Lunsford (Education WG Chair)**, an Assistant Professor for Food Systems Education and Policy at Tuskegee University's Cooperative Extension.
- **Dr. Rachael Budowle (Justice WG Chair)**, a Collegiate Assistant Professor in the Honors College at Virginia Tech.

Brandy, Lindsey, and Rachael have been actively involved within their working groups over the past few years, and each have taken on leadership and/or mentorship roles within our two fellowship programs. We are looking forward to working with them in each of their new roles on the EC!



2023-24 INFAS

Executive Committee

Executive Committee Chair

Brandy Phipps, Central State University, Department of Agricultural and Life Sciences, Agriculture Research Development Program.
EC Term: 2023- 2026.

Finance Chair

Ryan Galt, University of California Davis (UCD). Director of the Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis.
EC Term: 2021 - Ongoing.

At-large Member

Erica Hall, Board Chair of Florida Food Policy Council, Executive Committee Member of Sierra Club Florida Chapter, Membership Chair of North American Food Systems Network.
EC Term: 2022 – 2025.

Education Chair

Lindsey Lunsford, Tuskegee University's Cooperative Extension, Food Systems Education and Policy.
EC Term: 2023-2026.

Research Chair

Albie Miles, University of Hawai'i West O'ahu, Sustainable Community Food Systems.
EC Term: 2019 – 2024.

Justice Chair

Rachael Budowle, Virginia Tech Honors College.
EC Term: 2023-2026.

Organizational Development Co-chairs

Michelle Miller, University of Wisconsin Madison, Associate Director Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems.
EC Term: 2018-2024.

Lauren Gwin, Oregon State University, Associate Director Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems.
EC Term: 2019 – 2024.

Past year: General work

INFAS members and working groups were busy this year. Our main projects and work included:

- Completing our 2nd year of partnership with the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development (JAFSCD).
- Sponsoring the 10th Annual Sustainable Agriculture Education Association (SAEA) Conference held at the Ohio State University and Central State University.
- Developing and submitting a \$20 million dollar proposal, “NextGen Growing Season: preparing BIPOC students to enrich US food and agriculture” application to the USDA’s “Cultivating the Next Generation of Diverse Food and Agriculture Professionals (NextGen) funding opportunity. Although unfunded, the reviewers agreed that it was ranked in the top category as “outstanding”.
- EC at-large member Erica Hall represented INFAS at the Annual Black Farmers and Urban Gardeners (BUGs) national conference in Atlanta, Ga & at the launch of the Inaugural Agroecology Center at Florida A&M University.
- Supporting the visioning and strategic planning process for a UC Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems Consortium/Community of Practice. The goal of this project is to identify future research, education and extension programming and define important gaps and key points of synergy and collaboration between UC campuses, with the future hope of extending to other University campuses/systems involved with INFAS.
- Holding our 3rd Annual Virtual Summit with 50 INFAS members in attendance. Guest speaker, Kolia Souza, from MSU’s Racial Equity in the Food System (REFS) led a breakout session giving an update on their SNAP-Ed work.
- Hosting a virtual screening of “Rhythms of the Land”, a documentary highlighting and honoring the history of black farmers in America. Director, Dr. Gail Myers, joined the screening for a Q&A session with attendees.

Past year: Awards

Starting in 2021, INFAS began honoring dedicated members for their contributions to the vision and mission of INFAS through creating the Annual INFAS Awards. Each year we pass out three awards that capture the different roles and levels of involvement INFAS members can play a part in.

- **Dr. Lindsey Lunsford** at Tuskegee University was awarded the 21/22 “Stepping Up Award” for her extensive work and leadership in the development of the Tuskegee University-INFAS partnership to create the HBCUs graduate fellows’ program.
- **Dr. Diana Crider** was selected to receive the 21/22 “Committee Service Award” for remarkable commitment as a mentor to multiple cohorts of the IAC-INFAS Native American fellowship program.
- **Dr. Christine Porter** was selected for the 21/22 “Overall Impact Award” for her exceptional dedication, effort, and leadership to INFAS over the years. As chair, Christine helped develop INFAS’s partnerships and fellowship programs and has been a champion for new and current INFAS members, playing a instrumental role in the organizations growth and development in recent years.

A huge thank you to these members. Please keep an ear out for announcement of our 22/23 INFAS award winners!



Past year: Working Groups

Working groups are responsible for the majority of work INFAS completes throughout the year. Here's a summary of projects our working groups worked on this year:

Justice Working Group

- Working group member, Dr. Rachael Budowle, spearheaded our first special section with JAFSCD, Justice and Equity Approaches to College and University Student Food (In)Security.
- The working group helped develop a project to document higher education institutions', especially land-grant (or "land-grab") universities, truth and reconciliation strategies with Native American tribes and communities, including hiring research Ashley Babcock to conduct this research.

Education Working Group

- The Ed Working Group helped support publishing fees for underrepresented authors in the Frontier's Special Section, "Critical and Equity-Oriented Pedagogical Innovations in Sustainable Food Systems Education". As of August 2023, the special section now has over 32,000 views and downloads.
- The group also continued support for coordination of SAEA through FY23/24.

Research Working Group

- The Research Working Group prepared a proposal for a special volume of the Journal of the American Planning Association (JAPA) on food system planning and implementation entitled, "Achieving Food System Equity and Sustainability Through State, Regional and Municipal Planning & Implementation in North America".
- In addition, the group has been conducting a national needs assessment of the US food system planning professional community (e.g. scholars, state and regional planners and NGO leaders) designed to inform the development of a Food System Planning National Community of Practice. The study will be complete by September 2023 and submitted for publication in the Fall/Winter of 2023.

Organizational Development Working Group

- The Organizational Development Working Group hired researcher Erin Barnes Lowe to help support publications developed from their 2021-22 webinar series on developing and maintaining resilient centers and institutes.
- Through collaboration with Nancy Cramer, Casey Hoy, Nevin Cohen, Rich Pirog, and Thomas P. Tomich, the working group submitted their first publication "Resilience strategies for centers and institutes focused on food systems transformation" to JAFSCD.

Past year: Fellowships

INFAS & Inter-tribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Graduate Fellowship Program

- For the 22/23 academic year we welcomed our 3rd cohort of Native American fellows: Danya Carroll, Joelene Tamm, Jennifer Santry, Travis Numan, & Breanna Lameman
- INFAS helped support both IAC fellows & mentors to attend the 2022 Annual IAC Conference in Los Vegas, Nevada
- We funded our 5 current fellows, 2 mentors, and 2 fellow alumni to complete a 6-week storytelling workshop together with Story Center. The workshop provided the group an overview of the art of storytelling and helped them put together their own digital stories.

INFAS & Carver Integrative Sustainability Center (CISC) HBCU Fellowship Program

- The 22/23 academic year was a pilot year for our HBCU fellowship program.
- We welcomed 8 fellows & 4 honorees:
 - **Fellows:** Alyson Whitted, Asya Montgomery, Bernard Iwegbu, Christopher Iweriebor, Kevaughn Prout, Manoj Paudel, Miriam Hagan, Tanisha Felton
 - **Honorees:** Chinedu Ahuchaogu, Kingsley Bentum, Lydia Olagunju, Micah Talbert
- Fellows and honorees attended the 2022 Professional Ag Worker's Conference in Montgomery, AL, where they participated in the student competition hosted by Gamma Sigma Delta, The Honor Society of Agriculture at Tuskegee University.
- Each of the fellows presented their work at the CISC HBCU Fellowship Showcase held this past June.



(Left to right: Front Row: Honoree Micah Talbert, Honoree Lydia Olagunju, Fellow Asya Montgomery, Fellow Miriam Hagan, Fellow Manoj Paudel, Fellow Kevaughn Prout, Fellow Bernard Iwegbu; Backrow: Program Manager Natilee McGruder, Honoree Chinedu Ahuchaogu, Fellow Tanisha Felton, Fellow Christopher Iweriebor, Mentor & Lead Dr. Lindsey Lunsford, Honoree Kingsley Bentum)

Upcoming year:

Below are some projects and goals that we have planned so far for the upcoming year. Please keep a lookout in our newsletters for updates on the work we're involved in.

- The INFAS fellowship programs will be moving from being housed in the Justice Working Group to the Education Working Group where Lindsey Lunsford will lead as chair.
- The HBCU fellowship program will be entering its 2nd year and is welcoming a cohort of 9 fellows and 13 honorees.
- INFAS will be helping to sponsor the First Americans Land-Grant Consortium (FALCON) 19th Annual Conference as well as supporting two INFAS members to attend the conference and Land Grant Partners Summit this October in Denver, Colorado.
- The Organizational Development Working Group is currently drafting a summary focused on recommendations for resilient centers and institutes for wide distribution. The working group is planning to host a webinar in October 2023 to discuss findings and recommendations from their webinar series work. You can register for this webinar here.
- Our INFAS-IAC fellowship program will be paused for the 23-24 academic year while IAC undergoes organizational growth. While on pause we're planning to redirect our energy towards securing consistent funding for this program long-term, including supporting our previous cohort of fellows on publishing some of their work.
- We are planning to finally redesign our website to be a more intuitive and informative platform for connecting food system scholars, researchers, and activists as well as highlighting INFAS's work.



Upcoming year:

- While our “outstanding” NextGen proposal was unfunded, we are still looking for opportunities to bring these ideas to fruition. One priority is for us to secure sustainable funding for our two fellowship programs, with a goal of ultimately adding a third fellowship for Hispanic/Latino graduate students involved in food system work.
 - If you have ideas or want to become involved in this endeavor reach out to our coordinator, Ben Cousineau at infas.coordinator@gmail.com.
- Research Working Group Chair, Albie Miles has taken on the role of Specialty Chief Editor of the Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems Section Social Movements, Institutions & Governance.
 - Four new Special Research Topics have been developed and are now in progress:
 - i. Food System Transformation and the Realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
 - ii. Food System Resilience, Disaster Preparedness & Response.
 - iii. Critical Theory, Animal Liberation & Food Ethics: Examining the Moral Status of Non-Human Animals & Its Implications for Food System Transformation.
 - iv. A Dialog of Wisdoms: Revitalizing Indigenous & Traditional Ecological Knowledge & Practice in Post-Secondary Sustainable Food Systems Education.
 - INFAS members are encouraged to participate as either associate editors, contributing authors or peer-reviewers. Please contact Albie Miles for additional details: albie@hawaii.edu.



Financial Report:

We are uniquely privileged to be funded by a W.K. Kellogg endowment. At the beginning of each fiscal year we receive a payout from this endowment that we use towards furthering INFAS's vision and mission.

- Moving into the 22/23 fiscal year INFAS had \$246,858 in savings.
- INFAS's endowment payout for 22/23 was one of our highest payouts at \$82,616.
- We spent a total of \$131,766 dollars which included: Staff support (INFAS coordinator & IAC mentor coordinator), Working Group support (project contractors & publication scholarships), travel & events (BUGs, FAMU, & Ag of the Middle event (21-22)), sponsorships & awards (SAEA Conference, INFAS awards), honoraria (mentor support), memberships (JAFSCD partnership), graduate fellowships (Story Center workshop), Special Projects (NextGen Proposal, UC Food System Consortium, Rhythms of the Land screening, logo), and supplies (Dropbox, totes).
- We will be entering the 23/24 fiscal year with \$197,708 in savings in addition to our 23/24 endowment payout.

INFAS financial summary for FY22/23

Total rollover funds from FY21/22	\$246,858
Endowment Payout (Income)	\$82,616
Expenditures	\$131,766
Staff Total	\$13,060
Working Groups Total	\$33,425
Travel	\$2,163
Events	\$455
Sponsorship/Scholarship/Awards	\$11,346
Honoraria	\$3,527
Memberships	\$8,500
Graduate Fellowships	\$10,000
Special Projects	\$44,596
Supplies	\$4,694
Balance Remaining for FY23-24	\$197,708



Gratitude:

Each year we want to thank all of our members (you) for your support and interest in INFAS! Whether it's sharing our newsletters, joining a working group, or if you're ambitious, developing one of our fellowship programs, each of these efforts gets us closer to fulfilling our mission of an environmentally sustainable and socially just food system.

A special thanks also goes out to the NextGen proposal team: Dr. Lindsey Lunsford, Dr. Brandy E. Phipps, Elaini Vargas, Dr. Kwasi Densu, Dr. Albie Miles, Dr. Damian Parr, Dr. Tarissa Spoonhunter, Dr. Ryan Galt, Dr. Christine Porter, Natilee McGruder Kyle, Alyssa Wechsler Duba, and Erica Hall.

And last but not least, a HUGE thank you to our dedicated mentors for our fellowship programs. Thank you for your support and guidance to our incredible fellows, these programs would not exist without your support.

CISC-INFAS HBCU Fellowship Mentors:

- Matthew Sanderson
- Rachel Soper
- Lesli Hoey
- Raymon Shange
- Kamyar Enshayan
- Brandy Phipps
- Marcia Ostrom
- Psyche Williams-Forson
- Lacey Gaechter
- Lindsey Lunsford
- Shoshanah Inwood
- Kareem M. Usher

IAC-INFAS Tribal Fellowship Mentors:

- Stephany Paige Parker
- Angel Cruz
- Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan
- Rachael Budowle
- Diana Crider
- Douglas Jackson-Smith

If you or someone you know would like to learn about more ways to become involved with INFAS please reach out to our coordinator, Ben, at infas.coordinator@gmail.com.

You can become a member by filling out an application at our website under “[Join INFAS](https://asi.ucdavis.edu/programs/infas)”: <https://asi.ucdavis.edu/programs/infas>

