

Guide to Volunteer Leadership Boards

NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

2023-24

NC STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences



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What role do volunteer boards play at the NC State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S)?

Volunteer leadership boards at the NC State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S) provide opportunities for alumni, advocates and friends to work closely with academic and administrative leadership across the College's divisions and programs. Board members provide expertise, support, and advocacy in service to their school or program's mission and goals.

Volunteer boards at the College do not have fiduciary responsibility with one exception, the NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc. board. All other boards are advisory/fundraising boards.

Each board has its own set of member responsibilities, but generally members are expected to:

- Attend and participate in board meetings;
- Stay apprised of division/program priorities and challenges;
- Serve as informed ambassadors to fellow alumni, peers and outside constituents;
- Support the College/program financially, including a gift to the board's priority area (or area of your choice) during the annual NC State Day of Giving campaign (usually held each March) and assist with other aspects of NC State Day of Giving as suggested by board leadership;
- Help identify and cultivate additional volunteers for increased engagement as leaders and donors in service to the College or program mission.



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How are boards selected?

Senior leadership (associate deans and program leaders) and bylaws set the requirements for board membership criteria and giving expectations, and maintain a list of interested alumni, friends and industry leaders. The nomination and selection process for board members takes a wide array of factors into account. Each individual's qualities, accomplishments and contributions are given thoughtful consideration. They are also seen through the lens of how an individual enhances the board as a whole.

- Will the individual bring greater geographic, age, racial, life experience or career diversity to the board's membership?
- Do they have a skill set or professional network that could be brought to bear on a program's strategic plan or fundraising efforts?
- Could their business or social connections assist with student recruitment, fundraising and/or hiring efforts?
- How will the individual's leadership style complement and enhance the current board roster?
- Do they understand and support the dean or program leader's vision?
- Will they be effective advocates, ambassadors, and champions of the school's work with peers and outside constituents?
- Are they interested in board service as a means to an end – as a stepping stone to another board, for example, or in hopes that re-engagement with NC State will help their child's chances in the admissions process – rather than out of a deep commitment to serving as an active, collaborative contributor?

In addition to consideration by associate deans and directors, development officers also provide input into board selection. Many (but not all) boards have nominating committees that review prospective members and make recommendations to board leadership.



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Why do most boards at the CALS have a financial giving expectation of their members?

Most nonprofit organizations in the U.S., including public universities like NC State and non-profits like the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, Inc., ask their board members to provide some level of financial support. A literal investment in the organization demonstrates a commitment to supporting the vision of the College or program and an endorsement of the College or program's strategic plans and goals.

Throughout higher education, revenue from tuition and endowment falls short of covering increasing costs related to hiring and retention of top-ranked faculty members, conducting cutting-edge research in well-equipped modern laboratories, providing financial aid to brilliant but underfunded students, and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of students. In addition to managing a program or division of the College, associate deans and directors must also continuously raise money for their people, programs and priorities. Board members support deans and directors through personal donations or company gifts, as well as through assistance identifying alumni, friends and industry connections for whom the College or program's mission and work could inspire financial support and advocacy.

It is worth noting, however, that board giving expectations vary. Some individuals may be serving on the board as powerful influencers or connectors, accelerating progress toward institutional or programmatic goals. In addition, some boards may invite individuals to participate in shorter-term service on program-specific task forces and steering committees. Participation on the steering committees or councils can serve as a first step on the volunteer leadership path, and/or appeal to alumni or friends who can't make the time or financial commitment to board membership.

Finally, it's important to note that board service is only one way that alumni and friends can engage in meaningful ways with CALS. There are many opportunities for volunteer leadership in CALS, most of which have no financial giving component, like [volunteering at the JC Raulston Arboretum](#) or at the annual [CALS Tailgate](#).



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I want to join a board. Where do I start?

Board membership is not usually the first volunteer engagement experience of an alumna, alumnus, parent or friend has with CALS or NC State. In most cases, by the time an individual is invited to join a board, she or he is known by associate deans, directors, and/or other senior leaders; to development officers and alumni staff; and among other volunteer leaders.

Finding a board that is a good fit may take time. The first step to board participation is understanding the volunteer leadership landscape and deciding how and where you would like to be involved. As volunteers seek higher levels of engagement and philanthropic impact, conversations with development staff can help map out giving and time expectations that come with board service. Development, program staff and leadership can provide additional information about what is required of board service and what the experience provides. Because of the fiduciary responsibilities and bylaws of the NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc., there are many different considerations required for board membership in addition to interest and suitability.



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The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

About the Board

Incorporated on November 24, 1944, the Foundation and its Board support agricultural research, extension, and teaching activities in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at NC State. It is **one of seven** University-affiliated foundations at NC State. The NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit.

Mission: To aid and promote, by financial assistance and otherwise, all types of education and research in agriculture at or through NC State University

Member Requirements: Members are selected for their support of the mission and vision of CALS and several additional criteria as directed by the bylaws of the Foundation. Geographic location is an important consideration as representation from each county in North Carolina is required.

Nomination Process: Nominations are encouraged from all interested parties and are reviewed by the Associate Dean of College Advancement/President of the NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc. on a regular basis.

For More Information:

Sonia Murphy

President, NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

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NCALS Research Foundation

About the Board

The North Carolina Agricultural and Life Sciences Research Foundation enhances research programs by seeking to increase public and private support for CALS. This support creates new opportunities for CALS faculty, staff and students to innovate and pursue excellence in research by developing and sustaining critical partnerships.

- Build resources for the discovery, development, and commercialization of new ideas and technologies.
- Develop and articulate high-value research propositions.
- Develop and implement innovative funding programs.
- Simplify business processes and other interactions between the private sector and the university.
- Provide advocacy for the programs and research achievements of the College.

Member Requirements: Members are selected for their support of the mission and vision of CALS, agricultural and life sciences research. Maximum number of board members: 32.

Nomination Process: Nominations are encouraged from all interested parties and are reviewed by the board's nomination committee during quarterly meetings.

For More Information:

Dinah Schuster

Executive Director, NCALS Research Foundation Board | Senior Director of Development, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Office of College Advancement

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NC Cooperative Extension Agricultural Programs Foundation

About the Board

The NC Cooperative Extension Agricultural Programs Foundation operates under the auspices of The North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, Inc. It supports the mission of NC Cooperative Extension of providing non-formal, research-based education that advances agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, youth and communities, while creating prosperity for all North Carolinians.

Member Requirements: Members are selected for their support of the mission and vision of CALS, agricultural and life sciences research. Maximum number of board members: 32.

Nomination Process: Nominations are encouraged from all interested parties and are reviewed by the board's nomination committee during biannual meetings.

For More Information:

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Senior Director of Development

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North Carolina Dairy Foundation and North Carolina Dairy Youth Foundation

About the Boards

The North Carolina Dairy Foundation serves as the private support arm of the dairy research, extension and teaching program at NC State University.

The North Carolina Dairy Youth Foundation has as its mission to develop and provide broad-based financial support to enhance and expand North Carolina Dairy Youth Programs conducted via state, district, county and local activities.

Member Requirements: Members are selected for their support of the mission and vision of CALS, the North Carolina dairy industry and supporting corresponding youth education.

Nomination Process: Nominations are encouraged from all interested parties and are reviewed by the board's nomination committee during quarterly meetings.

For More Information:

Kathy Kennel

Assistant Secretary, NC Agricultural Foundation, Inc.

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NC 4-H Development Fund Board

About the Board

The 4-H Development Fund supports 4-H programming statewide, in each of North Carolina's 100 counties and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians (EBCI), in addition to the three camps and specialty programming. 4-H is the largest youth development organization in North Carolina.

Member Requirements: Members are selected for their support of the mission and vision of 4-H and youth education in North Carolina.

Nomination Process: Nominations are encouraged from all interested parties and are reviewed by the board's nomination committee during quarterly meetings.

For More Information:

Allyson Farmer

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NC FCS & ECA Board

About the Board

The NC Family and Consumer Sciences & Extension and Community Association Board supports programs for youth, families, and communities in North Carolina through the Department of Agricultural and Human Sciences, statewide Extension FCS programs and the NC ECA. The NC FCS & ECA Board operates under the auspices of the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation, Inc. The ECA Grants Committee and FCS Grants Committee (committee members are not required to be on the Board) oversee the awarding of Innovative Grants every year. The FCS Grants Committee also awards the Judy Mock FCS Grants for Excellence in Extension Programming.

Member Requirements: Members are selected for their support of the mission and vision of Family and Consumer Sciences & Extension in North Carolina.

Nomination Process: Nominations are encouraged from all interested parties and are reviewed by the board during spring and fall meetings.

For More Information:

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Executive Director

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NC FFA Foundation

About the Board

Business and industry leaders and individuals interested in investing in the future of student leaders who will enter the agriculture industry serve as members of NC FFA Foundation board. The Foundation funds FFA programs, events and scholarships in agricultural education for middle and high school students throughout North Carolina.

Member Requirements: Members are selected for their support of the mission and vision of FFA and agricultural youth education in North Carolina.

Nomination Process: Nominations are encouraged from all interested parties and are reviewed by the board during biannual meetings.

For More Information:

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CALS Alumni and Friends Society Board

About the Board

The CALS Alumni and Friends Society (AFS) supports CALS partners through a focus on philanthropy, active participation, and influential dialogue with the College. The purpose of the CALS AFS Board is to foster the interest of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and its partners.

The CALS AFS Board represents CALS Alumni and Friends through a focus on philanthropy, active participation, and influential dialog with the College. The board serves as an advocate for the college among students, key decision-makers and potential supporters.

Member Requirements: Members are selected for their support of the mission and vision of CALS and professional leadership in agriculture and/or the life sciences. While most members of the board are alumni of CALS, there are spaces on the board available for friends of the college.

Nomination Process: Nominations are encouraged from all interested parties and are reviewed by the board's nomination committee during quarterly meetings.

For More Information:

Daniel Radford

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JC Raulston Arboretum Board of Advisors

About the Board

The JC Raulston Arboretum Board of Advisors, a specialized group that functions as a part of the JC Raulston Arboretum and the Department of Horticultural Science, is an advisory body recognized by the Department of Horticultural Science. Its purpose is to advise and assist the JC Raulston Arboretum Director in development and management direction of the JC Raulston Arboretum, and to ensure the success of the institution in pursuit of its short and long-range goals.

The mission of the JC Raulston Arboretum is to introduce, display, and promote plants that diversify the American landscape, thereby benefiting our communities economically, environmentally, and aesthetically, as well as provide educational experiences to the general public, students of all ages, and the green industry.

Member Requirements: Members are selected for their support of the mission and vision of the JC Raulston Arboretum.

Nomination Process: Nominations are encouraged from all interested parties and are reviewed by the board during biannual meetings.

For More Information:

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