

2023 *National* Agriculture in the Classroom **Annual Report**



Executive Director's Message

Here at the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO), we strive to

develop relevant standards-based PreK through 12th grade lesson plans and companion resources, offer teacher inservice and preservice professional development opportunities, and provide grant programs and other initiatives to help state and territory Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) programs build capacity and increase their impact.

The National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference continues to grow, and in 2023, National Agriculture in the Classroom hosted the National Conference, "Beyond the Beaches" in Orlando, Florida in-person for more than 500 attendees. Attendees were able to choose from more than 90 professional development opportunities. We also honored eight teachers with the 2023 National Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award for their innovative ways they use agricultural concepts in their classroom instruction. A virtual version of the conference was produced in July of 2023 for more than 200 attendees. NAITCO provided grant funding to programming and professional development projects submitted by nine Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) state and territory programs.

Our partners at The National Center for Agricultural Literacy continued the expansion of the National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix, a searchable

database of hundreds of preK-12 lessons and companion resources and provided valuable professional development for program leaders and educators.

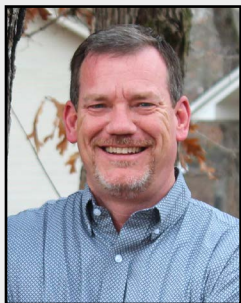
NAITCO leveraged the combined state budgets of approximately \$15.9 million with grant funding received from USDA/NIFA and financial support from our valuable sponsors. We are truly grateful for all of our funding partners that help us accomplish our mission.

With our partners, we can accomplish anything. I look forward to the exciting future all AIRC programs have in front of us.

Andy Guffey

Andy Guffey
Executive Director
National Agriculture in the Classroom

Looking Forward



Andy Guffey
Executive Director



Randy Bernhardt
Development Director



Tessa Matuszak
Program Manager



Tonya Wible
Program Specialist

NAITCO is excited about the upcoming year with the USDA/NIFA grant funding approved. New projects to enhance program efforts for state and territory program leaders are in development and new professional development opportunities are being created for program leaders. The NAITCO team provides passion and years of experience in agricultural education and fundraising.



By the Numbers

50

States and two territories
have Agriculture
in the Classroom
(AITC) programs

2,627,432

Students reached in 2023
by Agriculture in the
Classroom programs

14,367

Volunteer educators
impacted by AITC
state/territory programs
in 2023

62,083

preK-12 teachers trained
in agricultural literacy
by AITC state/territory
programs in 2023

The size and scope of Agriculture in the Classroom State (AITC) state and territory programs vary widely across the country. The National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization provides leadership at the national level to apply for federal grant funding to fund a national website, a searchable database of standards-based lesson plans and resources, a national conference, a national teacher awards program for AITC state and territory programs, and professional development opportunities for AITC state and territory programs. In addition, it seeks sponsorships and partnerships with national agribusinesses and organizations with an interest in Pre-K-12 agricultural literacy.

