

RESOLUTION # 13

NEW JERSEY FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION

1 **WHEREAS**, the 45 secondary instructional programs related to agriculture are
2 known as New Jersey Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education and include
3 experiential learning (Supervised Agricultural Experiences) and leadership development
4 through FFA, the appropriate Career and Technical Student Organization for these
5 programs; and

6 **WHEREAS**, today's high-tech Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education
7 curricula, taught by 62 agriculture-certified instructors, is infused with rigorous academics
8 and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) components provided by
9 Curriculum in Agricultural Science Education (CASE) and other agricultural science
10 education courses, to ensure global competitiveness, student achievement and well
11 prepared graduates for over 250 career areas in the food, agriculture, renewable energy and
12 environmental industry; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Office of Food, Agriculture
14 and Natural Resources Education conducts the national State Teach Agriculture Results
15 (STAR) program to develop strategies to address teacher recruitment, retention and the high
16 demand for agriculture teachers; and

17 **WHEREAS**, an increased supply of teachers will be needed to fill vacancies caused
18 by retirements and/or to provide newly established programs with properly trained and
19 certified teachers for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education, therefore helping
20 to increase the human capital needed to serve the agriculture industry; and

21 **WHEREAS**, more programs are needed due to an increased supply of human capital
22 required to fill the annual employment opportunities in Food, Agriculture, Renewable Energy
23 and the Environment; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Public Law 115-224 "Strengthening Career and Technical Education for
25 the 21st Century Act," also known as Perkins V, requires data-driven decision-making and a

26 “local” needs assessment indicating labor market needs to support existing and future Food,
27 Agriculture and Natural Resources Education programs; and

28 **WHEREAS**, the state Department of Agriculture, Department of Labor, nor the New
29 Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station has comprehensive data for the state’s need of high
30 skill, high wage occupations in the Food, Agriculture or Natural Resources sector.

31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 106th State
32 Agricultural Convention, assembled through a virtual platform hosted in Trenton, New
33 Jersey, in accordance with COVID-19 pandemic recommendations, on February 17, 2021,
34 do hereby support the development of new agriculture programs in parts of the state where
35 human capital is most needed to serve the broad agriculture industry and recommend the
36 Department collaborate with the New Jersey Department of Education to secure funds to be
37 used by Rutgers NJAES to conduct a needs assessment for high skill, high wage Food,
38 Agriculture and Natural Resources occupations to help support existing and future
39 established Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Education programs.

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support and further encourage the recent
41 efforts made by the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences to improve and market
42 the five-year agricultural science education program that currently exists; as well as the
43 development of the agricultural education option in the undergraduate major in Agriculture
44 and Food Systems, including the development of the courses focusing specifically on
45 agricultural education; efforts made by SEBS to utilize the Curriculum for Agricultural
46 Science Education to recruit high quality undergraduates interested in agriculture careers;
47 and the development of the post-bachelor’s program at the Rutgers GSE, developed and
48 offered jointly with the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, leading to
49 the degree of Ed.M. in Agricultural Science Education.

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support continuing a strong and viable Food,
51 Agriculture and Natural Resources Education program in New Jersey through a continuing
52 memorandum of understanding between the New Jersey Department of Education and the

53 New Jersey Department of Agriculture; support continual improvement of resources and
54 services to all New Jersey instructional programs for food, agriculture and natural resources
55 education at the middle, secondary and post-secondary levels; support the development of
56 innovative academically/STEM-enhanced agriculture instructional programs and support the
57 increase in supply of agriculture teachers.