RESOLUTION # 20

NEW JERSEY FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION

1   **WHEREAS**, the 44 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 61 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, thereby helping to

20   increase the human capital needed to serve the agriculture industry; and

21   **WHEREAS**, more programs are needed to provide an increased supply of human

22   capital required to fill the annual employment opportunities in Food, Agriculture, Renewable

23   Energy 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**, neither the state Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor,

29   nor the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station has comprehensive data for the state's

30   need of high skill, high wage occupations in the Food, Agriculture or Natural Resources

31   sector.

32   **WHEREAS**, Perkins V also identifies industry-valued credentials as a qualifier for a

33   rigorous program of study and as a measure of readiness for college and the 21st century

34   world of work; and

35   **WHEREAS,** the food, agriculture, renewable energy and environmental industry

36   sector lacks industry-valued credentials, especially credentials appropriate for secondary-

37   aged students.

38   **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates to the 107th State

39   Agricultural Convention, assembled in Atlantic City, N.J., on February 9-10, 2022, support

40   the development of new agriculture programs in parts of the state where human capital is

41   most needed to serve the broad agriculture industry and recommend the Department

42   collaborate with the New Jersey Department of Education to secure funds to be used by

43   Rutgers NJAES to conduct a needs assessment for high skill, high wage Food, Agriculture

44   and Natural Resources occupations to help support existing and future established Food,

45   Agriculture and Natural Resources Education programs.

46   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that we support the creation of statewide industry-

47   valued credentials for secondary-aged students in cooperation with industry trade

48   organizations.

49   **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support and further encourage the recent

50   efforts made by the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences (SEBS) to improve and

51   market the five-year agricultural science education program that currently exists; the

52   development of the agricultural education option in the undergraduate major in Agriculture

53 and Food Systems, including the development of the courses focusing specifically on

54 agricultural education; efforts made by SEBS to utilize the Curriculum for Agricultural

55 Science Education to recruit high quality undergraduates interested in agriculture careers;

56 and the development of the post-bachelor's program at the Rutgers Graduate School of

57 Education (GSE), developed and offered jointly with the Rutgers School of Environmental

58 and Biological Sciences, leading to the degree of Ed.M. in Agricultural Science Education.

59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we support continuing a strong and viable Food,

60 Agriculture and Natural Resources Education program in New Jersey through a continuing

61 memorandum of understanding between the New Jersey Department of Education and the

62 New Jersey Department of Agriculture; support continual improvement of resources and

63 services to all New Jersey instructional programs for food, agriculture and natural resources

64 education at the middle, secondary and post-secondary levels; support the development of

65 innovative academically/STEM-enhanced agriculture instructional programs and support the

66 increase in supply of agriculture teachers.