



AAAE Collaboration Travel Grant

Purpose:

The purpose of the AAAE Collaboration Travel Grant is to encourage multi-state collaboration amongst the membership of AAAE.

Criteria for Selection:

1. Applicants must be dues-paying members of AAAE. This includes yearly membership, lifetime membership, and student membership.
2. Applications must involve *at least* two dues-paying members from different institutions.
3. Applicants who have received an AAAE travel grant in the previous academic year are ineligible to apply.
4. Funding will be announced by October 1 via email. Full announcement will be made via the AAAE email listserv and website.

Proposal Application Materials: Due September 1st to “Jason McKibben- MEMBER SERVICES CHAIR, jdm0184@auburn.edu”

All forms of scholarship are encouraged to apply. These could include but are not limited to, a proposal for research collaboration, grant proposal, teaching/curriculum development, and/or extension program development. Funding decisions will be based on the value of proposals.

Nomination packets must include and shall be limited to:

1. Cover sheet. (with project title and names/institutions of all potential collaborators)
2. Proposal (MAXIMUM 2 pages)
 - a. Purpose/Goals/Objectives
 - b. Statement of benefit to the applicant
 - c. Proposed Budget – A maximum of \$5000 will be awarded in any one grant year.
 - i. Budget items are restricted for travel-related expenses to facilitate collaboration between the institutions
 - d. Proposed timeline of activities (ending April 30, 2022)
 - e. Projected Impact/Outcomes
3. Letter(s) of support from each participating institution

Expectations of award recipients:

Award recipients will be asked to report back to the member services committee the outcomes of their efforts. At minimum the recipients will be asked to submit a written report detailing the outcomes of the effort. All recipients must work with the AAAE Association Manager and the AAAE Treasurer to ensure association rules are followed with regards to fiduciary responsibility.



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AAAE Travel Grant Selection Rubric

Criteria	Range	Score
1: Goals are clear, meritorious, and compelling	0-5	
2: Plan is clear and realistic for goal achievement	0-5	
3: Benefits to the applicant's Academic/Professional/Scholarly growth are clear and specific	0-5	
4: Benefits to the broader agricultural education profession are specific and clear.	0-5	
5: Budget justification is clear and appropriate for proposed goals and outcomes.	0-5	
Total	0-25	



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Background information and chain of thought documentation to aid in discussion.

2020 proposal: The efforts being initiated by the board of AAAE are progressive and forward thinking. The board and the senior leadership are clearly focused on the development of the membership and the establishment of a cohesive national effort to bring to prominence the energies of the agricultural education community. The current model of large group meetings and symposiums is one that has been tested and has shown positive results. This, however, should not be seen as a final, but a first step in fostering the multi-institutional and transnational collaboration that it is going to take to make AAAE a leader in the world of not only agricultural and contextualized educational research but education and outreach research on the whole. The key to this kind of development is allowing the eager or innovative faculty to be able to spend time with one another, not a conference with agendas and expectations of socialization. But at their home institutions where the “real work” of agricultural education is done. This proximity to one another, “in our element” helps to spawn collaboration by bringing a new eye to old surroundings. While Skype, Zoom, Google docs, and cell phones are marvelous for quick and cheap collaboration meetings they lack the energy we need to move forward. If there wasn’t something magical about proximity, I would suggest we cancel the conference meetings and simply hold a large zoom call. With this in mind, I would ask the committee to suggest to the board a proposal to consider funding small grants to help cover the costs associated with traveling and collaborating with other faculty members in AAAE. Many universities have some money associated with visiting lecturers or scholars, many of the athletic organizations (Big 12, SEC, etc..) also have money associated with encouraging these kinds of visits from university to university. The internal university funds are becoming more and more limited and athletic organizational funding is rightfully intended to work within the greater organization’s membership (i.e. Big 12 schools only visit Big 12 etc...). This removes our collaboration outside of our larger regions and removes our colleagues from “smaller” institutions who are not part of D-I athletics. I see this proposal as the next step in moving AAAE and agricultural education to the forefront of educational research, by working together. We can leverage the bonds and shared ideas that are found at these larger meetings into more focused and productive one on one collaboration meetings. Proposals for funding reviewed by a committee organized for this action by the chair of the member services committee made of members of the member services committee. Deliverables of these proposals would be presented at the annual meeting of AAAE.

Jason D. McKibben, PhD. Auburn



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Background information and chain of thought documentation to aid in discussion.

Proposal made 2020, online meeting AAAE. Passed unanimously.

Travel grant(s) totaling a maximum of \$5000 will be offered to the membership of AAAE. Only current members of AAAE (at any level) are eligible for application. Priority will be given to junior faculty and faculty from “smaller” institutions. The goal of these grants will be to facilitate multi-state collaboration between AAAE membership to conduct research or extramural funding applications.

The AAAE member services committee would, serve as or allow the member services committee chair to, appoint a committee to select the successful awards. The application will be developed by the same committee and that RFA will be sent out via the AAAE email list-serve on a timeline that is appropriate for robust application and evaluation of those proposals. It is suggested that the application be released in January of the same year as the meeting in which the award will be announced. Applications will be evaluated by the committee in a timely manner to allow for the announcement of the award at the yearly AAAE meeting. Once announced, the awards will be available for use for 12 months following the award announcement. Those successful awardees would be required to submit a report back to the member services committee as to the outcome of that activity, the format of that report will be determined by the selection committee. The successful applicants will also be responsible for presenting the results of their collaboration. That presentation can include, but should not be limited to an invited poster session or during the evening social event at AAAE annual research meeting (as part of a special session during the social event to highlight/solicit potential collaborations among members), presentation during the “regular” research sessions. Awardees are asked to recognize the association's sponsorship of the project as is customary grants.

Timeline for 2021 pilot has been truncated due to COVID travel restrictions in spring 2021.