

Date: January 15, 2024

To: State Ag Teachers' Association Leaders

From: Alissa F. Smith, NAAE Chief Executive Officer

RE: Invitation to the Ag Ed Strand at the 2024 ACTE National Policy Seminar

We are planning an agricultural education track as part of the upcoming 2024 ACTE National Policy Seminar (NPS). The ACTE NPS provides an excellent opportunity to learn the basics of influencing federal decision makers, specifically on legislation related to career and technical education, including agricultural education.

To emphasize the importance of NPS and to encourage more participation from NAAE members, NAAE will be paying the registration fee of **one** NAAE member per state to attend and participate in NPS. *Each participant will be responsible for his/her own travel, lodging, meals, and incidental costs.* We encourage state agricultural education associations to assist with the travel, lodging, and per diem costs.

NAAE will have an agriculture-specific session during the afternoon of Sunday, March 17th from 3:30-5:00 p.m. and on Monday morning at 11:00 a.m.- 11:45 a.m. during the Deep Dive sessions. You may review the entire program for the NPS online at <http://www.acteonline.org/nps/>. There will be a special *First Timer's Q and A* beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 17. The opening general session will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 18.

Registration – NAAE will pay the registration fee for **one** NAAE member per state to attend the NPS. **Your state's representative must register through NAAE; please do not register through ACTE.** Please complete the online [2024 National Policy Seminar Registration form](#). **Please return the registration form to NAAE no later than Friday, February 23, 2024.** If you have already registered directly with ACTE, please notify NAAE as soon as possible.

Travel – Each NPS participant is responsible for making his/her own travel arrangements. The meeting will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, 1700 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202. There are two Marriott hotels in Crystal City; be sure you come to the Crystal Gateway Marriott. The closest airport to the downtown Washington, DC area is Washington Reagan National Airport (DCA). Other airports that serve the Washington, DC metropolitan area include Dulles International Airport (IAD) and Baltimore Washington International Airport (BWI). Transportation from IAD and BWI to downtown Washington, DC can be expensive; so, DCA is the preferred airport. The Washington Reagan National Airport (DCA) is served by the National Airport MetroRail (subway) station (blue or yellow lines). The Crystal Gateway Marriott hotel is served by the Crystal City MetroRail station (blue or yellow lines). You can find details on the Washington, DC MetroRail system here: <http://www.wmata.com>.

Hotel Information – To book your hotel information at the host hotel, please see the information below. You are welcome to secure housing outside of the host hotel, however you will be responsible for travel to the Crystal Gateway Marriott which hosts all of the sessions.

Crystal Gateway Marriott
1700 Richmond Highway
Arlington, VA 22202
Phone: 703-920-3230
Rates: \$277 plus 13.25% tax
To make your reservation online, please click [here](#).

NPS Schedule Including the Ag Ed Track – On Sunday, March 17th at 3:30-5:00 p.m., NAAE will have our first session of our Ag Ed Track. We will also have a session on Monday, March 18th during the deep dive sessions from 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. These sessions will provide professional development for agriculture-specific issues to prepare you for your hill visits with congress members. Please be sure to be in attendance.

The NPS Agenda can be found at [this link](#). We encourage you to participate in all NPS sessions and activities, including the Hill Visit Prep that will occur on Monday afternoon. This will provide you the opportunity to interact with other CTE professionals from your respective states.

Capitol Hill Visits – Tuesday is dedicated time to meet with your Congress members. **It is your responsibility to schedule the visits with your Representative and your two Senators.** You may get to see your elected officials or you may get to see legislative assistants only. Please do not be disheartened if you do not get to see your elected officials. Staff members are the workhorses on Capitol Hill. You can trust them to listen to your message and deliver it to their bosses. An attachment is included to give you some tips on scheduling your Capitol Hill visits. Please do not take this opportunity lightly – be sure to visit your elected officials while you are in Washington, DC for this event. The two purposes for you to come to this meeting are: 1) to learn more about being a person of influence with your elected officials, and 2) to visit your elected officials to ask them to support career and technical education, especially agricultural education.

Some states plan Capitol Hill visits in state groups – so you might want to check in with your state's CTE leaders to see what plans are being made for state group Capitol Hill visits. It is fine for you to do individual visits as well; you can determine what is best in your own situation.

Questions – If you have questions regarding the schedule for the NPS, the registration process, travel and/or lodging arrangements, or any other matters regarding your participation in the NPS, please contact Alissa Smith at the NAAE office by calling **(859) 967-2894** or **(800) 509-0204** or by sending an e-mail to asmith.naae@uky.edu.

We look forward to seeing a good turnout of agricultural educators and NAAE members at the 2024 ACTE National Policy Seminar.