



New York State Turfgrass Association

NYSTA News

Fall 2025 Edition

Yes, the Grass is Greener on the Other Side

by Dominic Morales, NYSTA Board Member

NYSTA Apprenticeship Program Update

The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) is proud to announce the ongoing success of its Registered Apprenticeship Program. This initiative is designed for golf courses, sports turf, and equipment technicians in New York. It offers an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway to help employers prepare their future workforce through on the job training and online classroom instruction. Over 24 months, participants gain paid work experience and a nationally recognized credential.

SUNY-Delhi is a key partner, offering 19 college credit hours as part of the Related Instruction (RI) component of the apprenticeship program. These credits can also be applied towards an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree. The program caps annual enrollment at 12 apprentices.

For more information on this NYSTA's Apprenticeship Project, please visit the apprenticeship website at: www.nystaapprenticeship.com



Note: The NYSTA Apprenticeship Program is a member benefit. Non-members interested in participating are encouraged to join NYSTA. Membership is free for FFA Advisors, Ag. Educators, and students. Visit NYSTA to Join today! www.nysta.org.

2025 NYS FFA Convention

NYSTA & SUNY-Delhi participated in the annual statewide FFA Convention held at the New York State Fair Grounds in Syracuse from May 7-9. The event attracted over 2,500 students, Ag. Educators, and FFA Advisors. NYSTA showcased an informational booth featuring video and equipment demonstrations provided by Grassland Equipment & Irrigation. SUNY-Delhi had a companion booth where they highlighted educational opportunities and their role as a related instruction partner for the NYSTA Apprenticeship Program.



NYSTA's Ambassador Program: Collaborating with NYS FFA Chapters

A primary goal of NYSTA's Ambassador Program is career awareness and outreach in K-12 schools across New York State. NYSTA collaborates with New York State FFA regional school chapters, agriculture educators, and counselors in each school district.

“Our goal is to match teachers/advisors with industry professionals as a resource for possible guest speakers, participate in career fairs, coordinate field trips to various facilities, and develop Co-op/internship opportunities where/when appropriate with various school districts.”

A list of Ambassador representatives from local NYS GCSA chapters has been developed for each of the nine NYS FFA districts so they can assist ag educators or NYS FFA advisors for the purpose of:

- Coordinating a work-based learning program at their facility or place of business in coordination with your school district
- Identifying a guest speaker as it relates to career opportunities within the Green Industry at career days or various classes.
- Hosting a field trip to their facility or place of business

We believe strongly that this approach will increase awareness to young individuals about the tremendous opportunities available to them and at the same time begin to satisfy the employment shortage we are experiencing. It is our way of “paying it forward”.

To arrange a field trip or book a guest speaker for your class or career fair, please contact your region's representative below:

Ambassador Program Industry Contact Information:

FFA Region	Golf Course Superintendents Association Chapter Contacts
Western & Central New York Region: 3, 4, 5, 6	GCSA of New York Ron Stepanek ron.stepanek@gcsaofny.org phone: 716-471-1535
Adirondack/North Country Region: 3, 11	Adirondack GCSA Joe DeForest jhdeforest@verizon.net phone: 518-837-5066 cell: 518-524-9546
Capital District, Saratoga Region, Mohawk Valley Region: 1, 2, 4	Northeastern GCSA Sue VanAmburgh sue@nysta.mobi phone: 518-783-1322
Hudson Valley, Southeastern NY Region: 4, 7, 10	Hudson Valley GCSA Susan O'Dowd email: sodowd@mgagolf.org phone: 914-909-4843
Westchester, Putman, Rockland	Metropolitan GCSA Mike McCall mike@mccallmg.com cell: 914-204-9136

Note: Some regions and chapter areas may overlap, requiring contact with multiple chapters.

Apprenticeship/Ambassador Program Information Contacts:

- **Sue VanAmburgh, NYSTA Executive Director**

- Email: sue@nysta.mobi
- Phone: 518-783-1229

- **Julie Testo, NYSTA Apprenticeship Director**

- Email: julie@nysta.mobi
 - Phone: 518-914-6122
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Wishing you all a rewarding and successful school year!

Dominic Morales
NYSTA Board Member

THE NYSTA APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM PROVIDES A
STRUCTURED HANDS-ON TRAINING, MENTORSHIP, AND
EDUCATION TO BUILD A SKILLED AND RELIABLE
WORKFORCE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SUNY DELHI.



EMPLOYER BENEFITS

- Reduced hiring risks with trained professionals
- Enhanced productivity and team development
- Access to tax credits and government grants



EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- Gain structured training and education that paves the way for career advancement
- Earn professional credentials
- Industry specific knowledge and skills



KEY FEATURES

- NY State-certified 2-year program
- 19-college credits through SUNY-Delhi
- 4,000 hours of on-the-job training



CONTACT US FOR DETAILS AT
NYSTAAPPRENTICESHIP.COM

