

1-DAY C2A3 SENIOR LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

**Monday, November 2
San Antonio, Texas**

Audience: Board members, presidents, chancellors, CEOs, and senior institutional leaders interested in advancing agricultural education and workforce development, and connecting with other higher education leaders in this space.

C2A3 Dinner with Board of Directors (Optional)

6:00 - 8:00 pm / Sunday Evening | You are invited to join the C2A3 Board of Directors and Presidents of our member institutions for a relaxed informal setting.

Plenary Session – Welcome and Keynote

8:00 - 9:15 am | With USDA NRCS Chief Colton Buckley and Futurist John Arrow

During the keynote address, USDA leadership will share their workforce trends and how C2A3 and member colleges can respond. Futurist John Arrow will discuss technology's place in agriculture today, and what the rise of mobile, cloud, IoT and AI teaches us about the future of agriculture. He will also discuss how farms will evolve in the next 5, 15 and 50 years with the use of new technology, and how to prepare students and institutions for careers that do not yet exist.

Leadership Session #1

9:30 - 10:30 am | Future of Agriculture Roundtable Facilitated by John Arrow

Agriculture is entering a period of unprecedented transformation driven by advances in technology, artificial intelligence, automation, workforce evolution, sustainability priorities, and changing economic realities. This exclusive roundtable brings together board members, presidents, chancellors, and senior leaders for a candid discussion about the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of agriculture and agricultural education.

Facilitated by industry leader John Arrow, participants will engage in strategic dialogue on emerging trends, workforce demands, innovation ecosystems, public-private partnerships, and the leadership decisions required to prepare institutions and communities for the next generation of agriculture. The session is designed to encourage peer-to-peer exchange, shared learning, and forward-looking perspectives that can inform institutional strategy and policy. This conversation offers a unique opportunity for senior leaders to explore how higher education, industry, and government can work together to build a resilient, technology-enabled agricultural future.

Leadership Session #2

10:45 - 11:45 am | Lessons Learned from the Field: Presidential Perspectives on Advancing Agriculture

Agriculture plays a vital role in the economic vitality and workforce needs of communities across the nation. In this panel discussion, higher education leaders Dr. Leah Barrett, President of Northeast Community College (NE); Dr. Jeannie Worden, President of Northcentral Technical College (WI); Dr. Brian Shonk, Chancellor of University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville; and Dave Dahms, President of Northeast Iowa Community College will share their experiences leading institutional efforts to strengthen and elevate agriculture within their regions.

Through candid conversation and practical examples, panelists will discuss the strategies, partnerships, and leadership decisions that have fueled program growth, addressed workforce demands, secured resources, expanded industry engagement, and positioned agriculture as a priority within their institutions. Attendees will gain insights into the challenges faced, lessons learned, and opportunities that emerge when colleges align educational programs with the evolving needs of agricultural producers, agribusinesses, and rural communities.

Whether launching new programs, investing in facilities and technology, cultivating industry partnerships, or building regional support, these leaders have demonstrated how visionary leadership can create lasting impact for students, employers, and the future of agriculture.

Lunch and Plenary Session

12:15 – 1:30 pm | Keynote Speaker from John Deere Corporation

Laurel Caes, Manager, PPA Lifecycle Customer Journey, will share about their precision technologies, workforce trends and opportunities for the future.

Leadership Session #3

1:45 – 2:45 pm | C2A3 Open Forum: Maximizing Opportunities for Growth in Agriculture and Natural Resources

Interested in learning more about how the C2A3 network can support your institution's goals? Join C2A3 Board Members and the Executive Director for an interactive discussion designed to answer your questions and explore the many ways C2A3 can help colleges strengthen and expand their agriculture and natural resources programs.

This open forum will provide an opportunity to learn about C2A3 initiatives, resources, partnerships, professional development opportunities, grant-funded projects, and strategies for building

institutional capacity. Whether you are seeking to launch new programs, grow enrollment, enhance industry engagement, support faculty development, or prepare students for the evolving agricultural workforce, this session will offer practical insights and connections to help advance your efforts.

Bring your questions, ideas, and challenges for a candid conversation about how C2A3 can serve as a catalyst for innovation, collaboration, and growth at your institution.

Plenary Session

3:00 – 4:30 pm | NRCS Partnerships in Action: Founding Member Institution Flash Session

Discover how C2A3 Founding Member institutions are leveraging partnerships with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to create impactful educational opportunities, expand applied research initiatives, and strengthen workforce development in agriculture and natural resources.

In this fast-paced flash session, each Founder Member institution will present a 5 to 7-minute overview highlighting the unique ways NRCS partnerships are making a difference on their campuses and within their communities. Through a round-robin format, presenters will share successes, lessons learned, innovative projects, and the measurable outcomes of applied research and conservation-focused initiatives.

Attendees will gain valuable insights into effective models for collaboration with NRCS, learn about emerging research and workforce development opportunities, and discover practical ideas that can be adapted to their own institutions. Whether you are new to NRCS partnerships or looking to expand existing efforts, this session will showcase the collective impact and value of these collaborations across the C2A3 network.

Networking Reception

5:00 - 7:00 pm | Join colleagues on the rooftop bar and patio for appetizers and beverages and build some new connections and relationships.