



INFAS

Inter-institutional Network for
Food, Agriculture, and Sustainability

2021/22 Annual Report



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INFAS envisions a U.S. food system that is environmentally sustainable and socially just.

Executive Committee

At-large executive committee (EC) member Michelle Wander finished her term this past June. Michelle served on the EC from 2019-2022 and played an important role during our reorganization period. We thank Michelle for her time and dedication and look forward to continuing working with her on other INFAS projects in the future!

To fill our at-large position we recently held elections and are excited to welcome new EC member, Erica Hall. Erica is a chair of the Leadership and Membership Circles of the Northern American Food Systems Network, Board Chair of the Florida Food Policy Council, and the Executive Committee Member of the Sierra Club Florida Chapter.

Current 2022/23 INFAS Executive Committee

Executive Committee Chair

Christine Porter, University of Wyoming, Wyoming Excellence Chair in Community & Public Health. Chair Term 2019-2023.

Finance Chair

Ryan Galt, University of California Davis (UCD). Director of the Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis.

Research Chair

Albie Miles, University of Hawai'i West O'ahu, Sustainable Community Food Systems. Committee term 2019 - 2024.

Justice Chair

Julie Grossman, University of Minnesota, Department of Horticultural Sciences. Committee term 2018-2023.

Education Chair

Damian Parr, University of California Santa Cruz, Research and Education Coordinator Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS). Committee term 2018-2023.

Organizational Development Chair

Michelle Miller, University of Wisconsin Madison, Associate Director Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems. Committee term 2018-2024.

Extension Chair

Lauren Gwin, Oregon State University, Associate Director Center for Small Farms & Community Food Systems. Committee term 2019 - 2024.

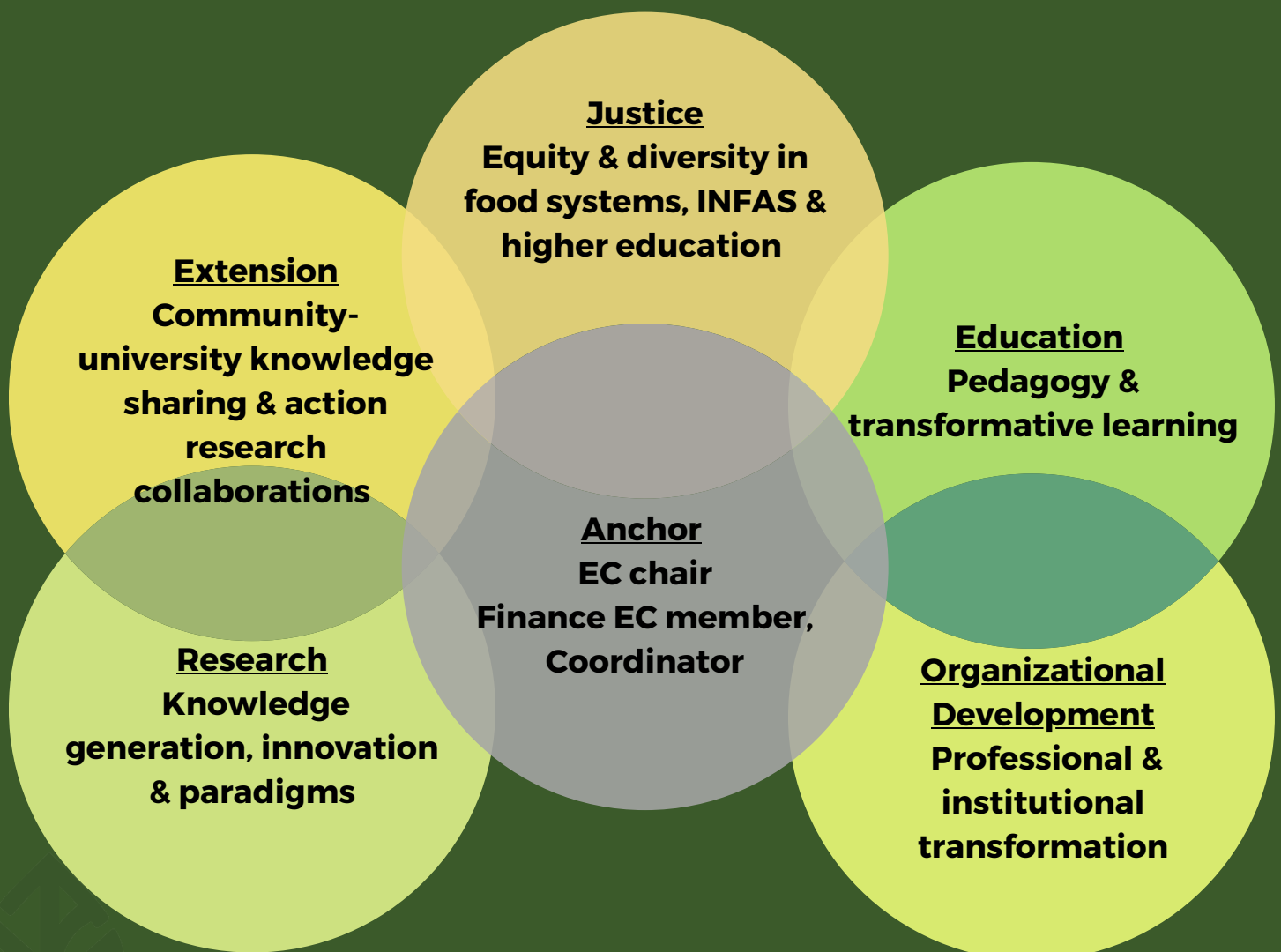
At-large Member

Erica Hall, Board Chair of Florida Food Policy Council, Executive Committee Member of Sierra Club Florida Chapter, Membership Chair of North American Food Systems Network Committee term 2022 - 2025.

Working groups

INFAS is composed of five working groups (WGs): Justice, Research, Education, Extension, and Organizational Development, with each one centered around INFAS's mission and values. Executive committee members serve as WG chairs or as one of the two anchor members. Together, working group chairs and members help to put into action much of the work INFAS is responsible for.

Any INFAS member can join a WG by reaching out to any of the working group chairs or our INFAS coordinator.



Past year

The 2021/22 academic year has been busy for INFAS with major new actions including:

- Partnering with the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development (JAFSCD). As part of our partnership, INFAS members can propose and guest-edit up to two special sections per year. We developed this partnership with JAFSCD in particular because its open-access, community-based publishing model and commitments to equity and food justice are uniquely well-matched to INFAS's mission.

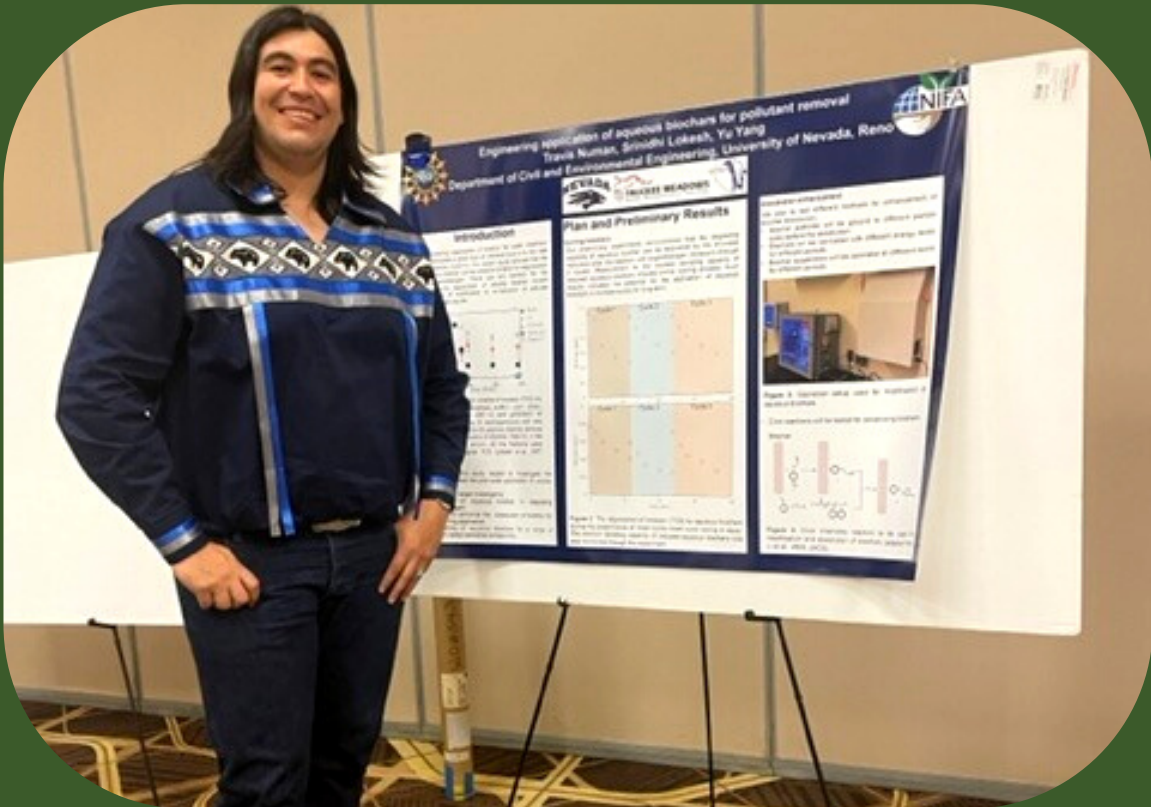
The first special section will be published in the spring, about achieving equity in student food security. Future sections will include collections of work by fellows in the graduate food system fellowships INFAS co-founded and supports.

- Collaborating with the Carver Integrative Sustainability Center (CISC) of Tuskegee University's College of Agriculture, Environment and Nutrition Sciences to launch a pilot HBCU Graduate Fellowship.
- Holding the first Annual INFAS Awards. Awards and winners included:
 - The Overall Impact Award: Awarded to Joanna Friesner for her dedication and leadership in INFAS for most of its history.
 - The Step-up Award: Awarded to Lesli Hoey for stepping up to lead INFAS's representation at the UN Food Systems Summit table.
 - The Committee Service Award: Awarded to Elizabeth Hoover for her support and dedication to the Justice Working Group and mentorship for the IAC-INFAS Native American Graduate Student Food Sovereignty fellowship program.
- Held our 2nd Annual Virtual Summit in February 2022 with a guest workshop held by Dr. Steve Gavazzi on "The Immense Debt Owed to Tribal Nations by Land-Grant Universities: Where to Begin?"

Past year

Other INFAS achievements this year have included:

- Growing our membership from 143 individuals to 181 members. Our members now represent 93 institutions and organizations!
- Developing our own INFAS logo.
- Holding our first Executive Committee elections.
- Supporting speakers at the Sustainable Agriculture Education Associations (SAEA) 2021 annual conference and continuing collaboration with SAEA, especially through the Education Working Group (WG).
- Eleven INFAS members mentored five 21/22 fellows in the IAC-INFAS Native American Graduate Student Food Sovereignty fellowship program. This is a partnership with the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC).



IAC-INFAS fellow, Travis Numan, at the Nevada Water Environment Association 2021 annual conference in Las Vegas, NV. His poster "Engineering application of aqueous biochar for pollutant removal" won 2nd place in the student poster competition. Travis is Paiute and Shoshone from the Reno Sparks Indian Colony and is in his 4th year in the Civil and Environmental Engineering PhD program at University of Nevada Reno.

Past year

- Hosting a third webinar on Resilience Centers and Institutes, organized by the Organizational Development WG. University of Wisconsin Agroecology graduate student Kase Wheatly transcribed all three webinars and summarized emerging themes in preparation for a journal article highlighting lessons learned.
- The Organizational Development WG also hired consultant Pam Mavrolas to host focus groups for INFAS members to explore specific ways that INFAS could support the stability and long-term resilience of centers and institutes that do participatory, transdisciplinary and action-oriented work on sustainable and equitable agriculture and food systems.
- INFAS members hosted a webinar on our experiences with the UN Food Systems Summit and published "[Debrief on the UN Food System Summit](#)" in JAFSCD. It has been cited by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, and in a paper on improving global governance.
- Supporting the Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems special issue: [Achieving Food System Resilience & Equity in the Era of Global Environmental Change](#) led by Albie Miles and the INFAS Research WG. This included multiple INFAS co-editors and sponsoring four papers by INFAS lead authors. To date this special issue has generated over 90,000 views! See the following for details: [Articles](#); [Impact](#).
- Supporting the Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems special issue: [Critical and Equity-Oriented Pedagogical Innovations in Sustainable Food Systems Education](#) led by Damian Parr and the INFAS Education WG. See the following for details: [Articles](#); [Impact](#).
- Sponsoring several INFAS members to attend the Agriculture of the Middle Dinner and Annual Meeting during the in-person Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society Conference in May in Athens, GA.
- Renewing our membership with the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) and co-hosting two "Cultivating Research Advocates" discussion sessions with [NSAC's Research, Education, and Extension Committee](#). As we get closer to the reauthorization of the Federal Farm Bill, in 2023, we will look to NSAC for guidance on how and when to engage effectively, and share that out with INFAS. Here's a start on that: [Digging Into the 2023 Farm Bill: Senate Hearings Kick Off the Long Road to the 2023 Farm Bill](#).

Current and coming year



For the 2022-23 academic year, actions underway and expected include:

- The Tuskegee-INFAS partnership on the CISC HBCU Graduate Fellowship Program has enrolled 8 fellows matched with 17 INFAS mentor members for the inaugural 22-23 academic year.
- INFAS sponsored support for up to six fellows in the third IAC-INFAS Native graduate fellowship cohort for 22/23. INFAS has also funded IAC to invite and host all three cohorts of Native fellows at their Annual Conference in December 2022. Five fellows are in this year's cohort and will soon be matched with INFAS mentors. Melvin Arthur has continued to coordinate the INFAS side of this partnership with IAC.
- The Justice WG is sponsoring a graduate assistantship for the 2023/24 academic year to help launch a new project to document higher education institutions' (HEIs)—with a specific focus on land-grant (or “land-grab”) universities—truth and reconciliation strategies, or lack thereof, with Native American tribes and communities.

Current and coming year

- INFAS is working closely with Tuskegee University (the PI institution, led by Dr. Lindsey Lunsford—INFAS member, former INFAS fellowship scholar, and leading food system action researcher) and UC Santa Cruz, Florida A&M University, Central State university, UH West O‘ahu, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Davis (our host university) and others on a \$20m proposal to the USDA’s \$250m “NextGen” call to support minority-serving institutions in diversifying who is leading food and agriculture.

Due in November, INFAS support has underpinned the heavy logistics to help this powerful group of leaders get from concept to proposal by the due date in mid-November. INFAS is also a partner in the proposed work. Even if our particular proposal is not funded, we expect this infusion to be transformative, making long-overdue investments in 1890s, 1994s and other minority-serving institutions, while infusing new and more diverse people and paradigms into US food and agriculture. Stay tuned!

- Co-facilitating the JAFSCD journal special edition call with eOrganic for Fostering Socially and Ecologically Resilient Food and Farm Systems Through Research Networks
- Building upon state and regional food system planning efforts led by MSU CRFS. Dr. Lesli Hoey, Dr. Albie Miles and Dr. Subhashni Raj will be submitting a proposal for a new Special Edition of the JAPA on the topic of state/regional food system planning and the realization of the UN SDGs:
 - Draft Title: Health, Equity, Resilience & Sustainability: Achieving the UN SDGs Through Collaborative State & Regional Food System Planning & Implementation in the US
 - Target Journal: Journal of the American Planning Association (JAPA)
 - INFAS Editorial Team:
 - Dr. Albie Miles, Assistant Professor, Sustainable Community Food Systems, University of Hawaii - West Oahu, Director, Hawaii Institute for Sustainable Community Food Systems.
 - Dr. Subhashni Raj, Assistant Professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, UH Manoa.
- Moving forward with shared ideas on the redesign and structure of our website.

Financial report

INFAS started off the year in excellent shape thanks to several substantial reimbursements we received from UC Davis this past year. According to UC Davis policy, INFAS cannot accumulate a balance greater than the sum of the previous three year's endowment payouts. This meant we needed to spend down a decent portion of our budget to stay within the University's guidelines.

To summarize, in numbers rounded to the nearest thousand:

- We began the 2021/22 fiscal year with ~\$263,00 in the bank.
- Our annual endowment payout was \$75,000.
- We spent \$91,000. In decreasing order, this was on sponsoring six graduate fellowships and fellow and mentor travel to the IAC conference in the IAC-INFAS partnership, working group project spending, INFAS staffing, partnerships and memberships with JAFSCD and NSAC, and general expenses such as awards, honoraria, and supplies. (This excludes funds that UC Davis has encumbered for future expenses.)
- We ended the year with \$246,858 in the bank for use in FY22-23.

INFAS overall income and spending for the 21/22 fiscal year:

Previous Balance from FY20/21	\$262,839
Endowment Payout FY21/22 (Income)	\$75,438
Expenses FY21/22	\$91,419
Graduate Fellowships: sponsoring up to 6 fellows in the IAC-INFAS program & IAC Conference travel	\$46,000
Working Groups: each has a \$8000 budget each year	\$15,500
Staff: Coordination of INFAS + coordination of the IAC-INFAS fellowship program	\$13,000
Partnerships & memberships: JAFSCD, NASC	\$12,600
Awards, Honoraria, and Other Expenses (Dropbox & Supplies)	\$4,319
End of Year Balance FY21/22	\$246,858

Gratitude

The WK Kellogg Foundation first endowed this network in 2010, with a particular goal of connecting the chairs in sustainable food systems that they had endowed in institutions across the country. Leveraging these funds and building on the shoulders of INFAS members, executive committee members and coordinators have brought us to an organization that is nearing 200 people and 100 institutions strong.

We can do as much work as our volunteer Executive Committee (EC), Working Group members, and INFAS members at large make happen. As you can see in this report, we—including you—are making real work towards our vision and goals happen! In our first EC election this year only the most active members—who have contributed to the mission the past two years via INFAS work—could vote. Impressively, nearly half of us qualified!

We would like to give a special shout-out of appreciation to members who have or are serving as mentors in the graduate fellowship programs. We can't thank you enough for your support and involvement!

Dr. Beth Rose Middleton

Dr. Tiffany Beckman

Dr. Valarie Blue Bird Jernigan

Dr. Rich Pirog

Dr. Stephany Parker

Dr. Linda Black Elk

Dr. Noa Lincoln

Dr. Elizabeth Hoover

Dr. Trudy Ecoffey

Dr. Diana Doan-Crider

Dr. Colby Duren

Dr. Kristin P Ruppel

Dr. Angel Cruz

Dr. Michelle Miller

Dr. Gary Nabhan

Dr. Matthew Sanderson

Dr. Kamyar Enshayan

Dr. Rachel Soper

Dr. Shoshanah Inwood

Dr. Kareem Usher

Dr. Raymon Shange

Dr. Brandy Phipps

Dr. Lesli Hoey

Dr. Psyche Williams-Forson

Lacey Gaechter

Dr. Marcia Ostrom

Dr. Thomas Tomich

Dr. Electa Hare-RedCorn

Dr. Rachael Elizabeth Budowle

Dr. Doug Jackson-Smith

Gratitude

Please keep up all the amazing work INFAS!

Do you have ideas that align with our INFAS mission that you would like to propose and put significant work into? Working group ideas can be directed to working group chairs. Send ideas for INFAS as a whole to our coordinator Ben at infas.coordinator@gmail.com with the subject line “investment idea/s.” Send to both if you are unsure how to direct your idea.

Thank you for being an INFAS member. As always, we ask members to consider becoming more involved as it helps further our mission to create a more sustainable and just food system. Opportunities to participate include: joining a Working Group, participating in events and webinars, or heeding calls for leadership and service that come over the listserv. If you're not sure how to get more involved, please reach out to Ben.

Take care, stay safe, and stay tuned for more from INFAS in 2022/23!

