

CAIA Faculty Fellow Program

Background

The mission of the [Center for Advanced Innovation in Agriculture](#) (CAIA) is to leverage science and technology to create transformative solutions to support agriculture and food systems, the environment, and communities in the Commonwealth and beyond. The CAIA Faculty Fellow Program provides team and leadership development opportunities to CAIA-affiliated faculty to champion CAIA's goals of:

- Positioning CALS and Virginia Tech for competitive global research advantage in agricultural innovations, growth and applications;
- Translating basic and applied agriculture research into innovations for data science and technologies to address agriculture challenges in all regions of Virginia and beyond by engaging industry and stakeholders as external partners;
- Providing student training and work force development for agricultural and food systems at the nexus of life science, digital and physical sciences.

The 2022 CAIA Faculty Fellow Program is supporting three faculty fellows, with each selected Fellow representing one of three focus areas: "Research and Development", "Industry and Community Partnership", or "Education and Training". The selected Fellows are expected to work closely as a team, with the CAIA leadership, and with CAIA-affiliated faculty during the one-year program (February 2022 to January 2023) for proposal development, industry and community engagement, and education and workforce training.

Eligibility

Tenured Associate or full Professor who are CAIA-affiliate faculty as of December 2021. The successful candidate will have demonstrated multidisciplinary teamwork and evidence of creativity and innovation, with strengths in the [Fellow] focus area of interest. The applicant should desire to develop leadership experience and skills in support of CAIA and its mission and goals.

Benefits

- Individual Faculty Fellow may request up to \$8,000 in support of the proposed CAIA activities. and in support of team-building and leadership training opportunities for expanding their skills.
- Faculty Fellows will be central to CAIA program planning and growth as a member of the CAIA Faculty Leadership Group during their Fellow year.
- Faculty Fellows will have increased opportunity for engaging with administrative leadership in CALS and other colleges as well as university leadership.
- Opportunities for engagement with CAIA External Leadership Committee [Industry, commodity and community organizations] and other stakeholders.
- Potential for nomination for leadership training through the national program LEAD21.

Expectations during the Funding Cycle

- Work as a team with other Faculty Fellows
- Meet monthly during the funding cycle with CAIA Faculty Leadership Group and the Faculty Fellows cohort to discuss progress, challenges, and strategies.
- Involve other CAIA-affiliated faculty in the proposed activities
- Mentor junior faculty on proposal development, stakeholder engagement, and education
- Present at CAIA-sponsored events
- Submit a final report to CAIA documenting the outcome of activities and experiential benefits that are relevant to CAIA's mission and vision and their leadership growth
- Engage with external stakeholders and to discuss activities during the funding cycle and communicate benefits and findings that are relevant to them.

Application Process

Applicants should submit the following application materials in a single pdf file to Dr. Susan Duncan, CAIA Director, at duncans@vt.edu by February 7, 2022

- One page proposal clearly articulating:
 - Which of the three focus areas [“Research and Development”, “Industry and Community Partnership”, or “Education and Training”] you are interested in and why;
 - Why you are interested in the CAIA Faculty Fellow leadership opportunity;
 - Description of your planned CAIA activity(ies) for helping CAIA advance its mission and vision in the focus area.
- Budget: Individual faculty may request up to \$8,000 total in support of the proposed activity(ies) of relevance to their targeted focus area during the Fellow year. A portion of that amount may be used to develop your skills in team building and leadership training for the Fellow. Of that \$8000, up to \$4000 may be directed to a leadership salary supplement during the Fellow year. The majority of the funding for proposed activities, team/leadership training, and salary supplement should be committed for expenditure by June 15, 2022.
- Faculty Profile: a brief biographical sketch (1 page maximum; USDA NIFA format) providing evidence that supports the application proposal, your selected focus area, and describes how you have engaged in CAIA in the 2020-2021 cycle.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

- A clear advancement of CAIA mission and vision
- A plan clearly articulating collaboration and engagement activity(ies)
- Strong interest in leadership and collaboration

Application status notification

Applicants will be notified of the status of their application by February 14, 2022. Selected Fellows will begin their term as CAIA Fellow on February 21, 2022, with a termination date of January 31, 2023.