

RESOLUTION # 21

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

1 **WHEREAS**, the world population is predicted to reach nine (9) billion by 2050
2 and is estimated to include growth in the middle class by 3 billion people who will
3 demand 60 percent more meat, milk and eggs than produced today, and

4 **WHEREAS**, an increased supply of human capital is required to fill the 54,400
5 annual employment opportunities in the area of Food, Renewable Energy and the
6 Environment between 2010-15, and

7 **WHEREAS**, today's high-tech Agricultural Science Education curricula is infused
8 with rigorous academics, including STEM (science, technology, engineering and math)
9 components, all critical to ensure global competitiveness, student achievement and well
10 prepared graduates for over 300 careers in the agriculture, food and natural resources
11 industry; and

12 **WHEREAS**, at least 21 New Jersey high school districts have Curriculum for
13 Agricultural Science Education (CASE) certified agriculture teachers and are
14 implementing the CASE program, which offers academically infused agriculture courses
15 that may be articulated for college credits at two- and/or four-year institutions; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Rutgers University, Delaware Valley College, SUNY Cobleskill and
17 several county colleges have established articulation agreements with high school
18 agriculture programs to offer up to 11.5 college credits for rigorous CASE courses, and

19 **WHEREAS**, Rutgers University and Allentown High School have partnered with
20 New Jersey Department of Agriculture to host a 2015 CASE Institute (teacher
21 professional development) for the CASE field test course in Agriculture, Business,
22 Research and Development; and

23 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to increase the number of agricultural education
24 programs and qualified, certified agriculture teachers to increase numbers of students
25 entering careers in agriculture.

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the delegates of the 100th
27 State Agricultural Convention assembled in Atlantic City, New Jersey on February 4-5,
28 2015, support increased marketing of, and education about, global agriculture demands;
29 increased marketing of New Jersey’s high-tech agricultural science programs at the
30 secondary level, increased numbers of certified agriculture teachers and increased
31 communications about demand for agriculture graduates.

32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that that we support continuing a strong and
33 viable Agricultural Education program in New Jersey through a continuing memorandum
34 of understanding between the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey
35 Department of Agriculture; support continual improvement of resources and services to
36 all New Jersey Agricultural Education programs at the middle, secondary and post-
37 secondary levels; support the development of new and updated local programs of
38 Agricultural Education through the implementation of the CASE programs and support
39 pre- and in-service professional development programs for agriculture teachers through
40 traditional and alternate teacher certification processes.

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that today’s high-tech Agricultural Science
42 Education programs, emphasize the science, business and technology of agriculture and
43 by increasing the numbers of programs, certified teachers, and students can help
44 positively impact the production, processing and marketing of more food and fiber to
45 meet global needs for 2050 and beyond.