



MAELC

Minnesota Agricultural Education
Leadership Council

Sarah Dornink
Executive Director

House Agriculture
Finance & Policy Committee

February 9, 2023



Who are we?

- 16-member legislative council created in 1997
- Mission Statement: MAELC provides leadership to promote and expand agricultural education in Minnesota
- Staff includes Sarah Dornink, Executive Director and Kari Schwab, Program Coordinator

The logo for Minnesota Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Education. It features a white outline of the state of Minnesota. Inside the outline, there are four green squares arranged in a 2x2 grid. The top-left square contains a white plant with leaves. The top-right square contains a white book icon. The bottom-left square contains a white fork and a white plate with a crescent moon. The bottom-right square contains a white bird in flight.

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Education

- Agricultural Literacy
- School-Based AFNR Education
- Post-Secondary AFNR Education
- AFNR Teacher Preparation
- Farm Business Management (FBM)



Minnesota annual demand of **18,820** for AFNR employees

Current pipeline of **1,731** AFNR students in higher education

* RealTime Talent (2021)



MAELC Funding

In 1997 the Minnesota Legislature provided a biennial special appropriation to the University of Minnesota base level funding for the enhancement of agricultural education programming.

MAELC Operations & Scholarships

\$240,109

MAELC Grants, Special Initiatives & New Programming

\$250,000

Farm Business Management & Mentor Program Grants

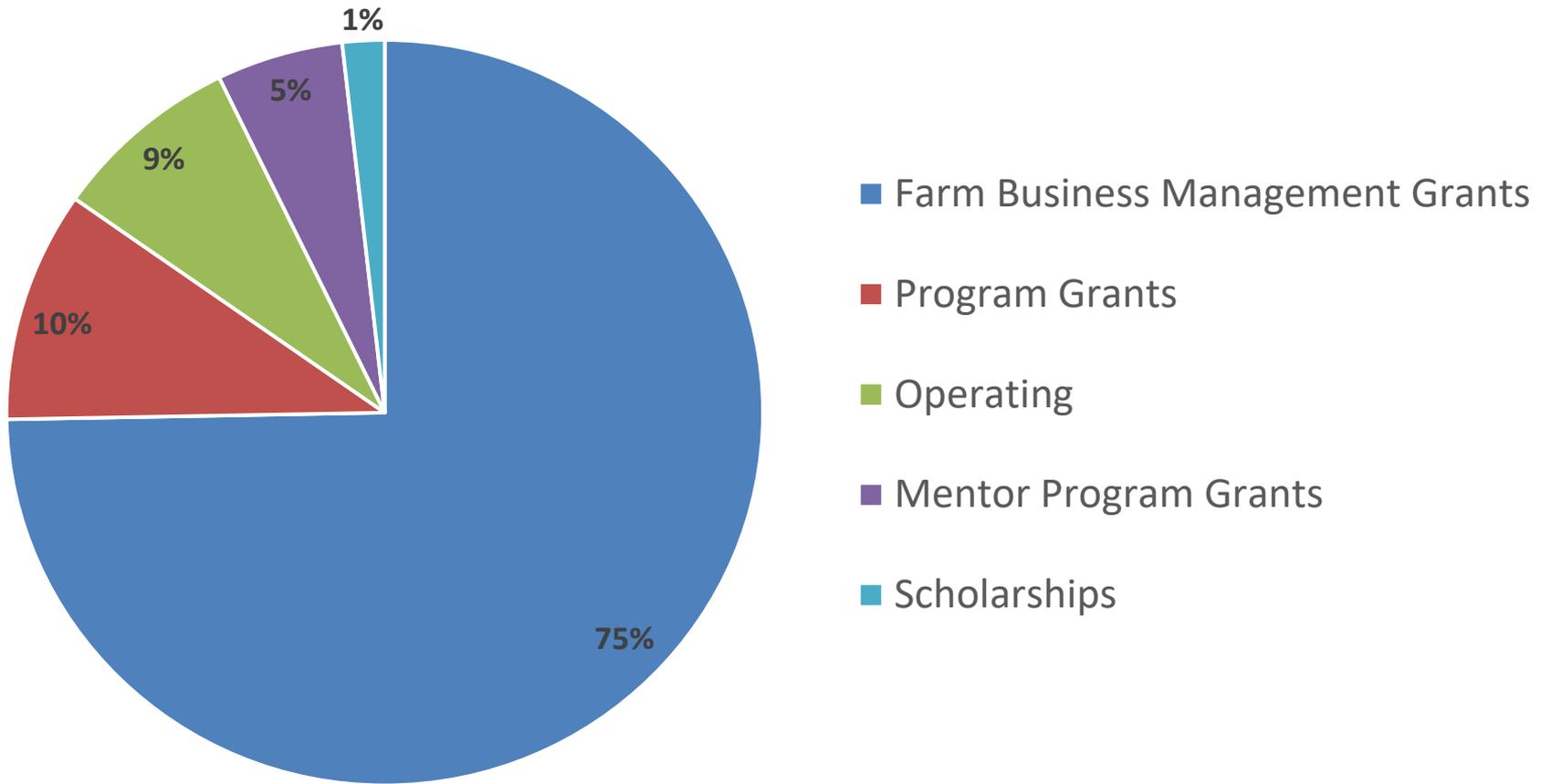
\$2,000,000

Total Budget: \$2,490,109/year

MAELC is housed at the University of Minnesota – St. Paul



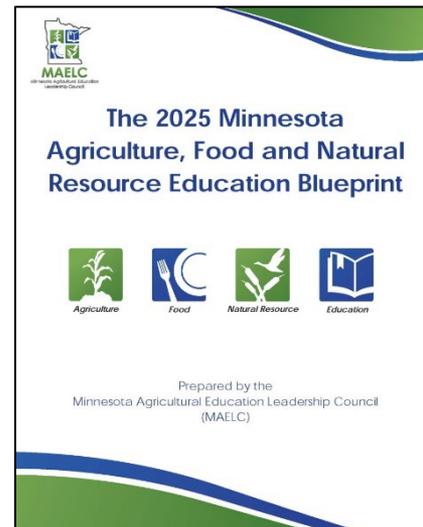
MAELC Budget Breakdown





Meeting MAELC's Mission

- Leadership, Engagement & Promotion
- Starting & Supporting AFNR Programs
- Teacher Recruitment & Retention





Meeting MAELC's Mission

Leadership, Engagement & Promotion

- **Provide visibility and communications**
- **Organize strategic committees/meetings**
- **Represent Agricultural Education at various functions**
- **Serve as a resource for the legislature and government agencies**
- **Facilitate Minnesota Team AgEd**



Meeting MAELC's Mission

Starting & Supporting AFNR Programs

- **MAELC Grant Programs**
 - Program Grants
 - Farm Business Management
 - Mentor Programs
- Outreach to Schools (New & Current)
- Curriculum
- Focus on Work-Based Learning & Internships
- AgEd for All (Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Efforts)



Farm Business Management (FBM) & Mentor Program Grant Funds

\$2,000,000 / year

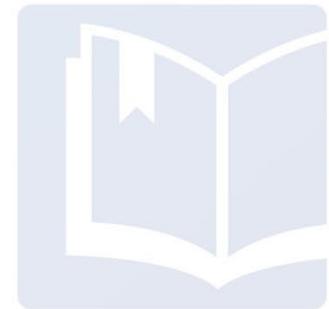
-FBM Challenge Grants - \$1,730,000

-FBM Additional Instructor Grants - \$125,000

**Specialty Crops & Urban*

-Mentor Program Grants - \$135,000

-Evaluation - \$10,000





FBM Challenge Grant Parameters

Colleges must meet **five of the eight** parameters:

- Maintain current number of credentialed FBM instructors under an Article 12 MSCF FBM contract
- Maintain current FBM student credit numbers (collegewide, not per instructor)
- 70% of eligible students are enrolled as full-time students in the FBM program (10 credits per year)
***If college is below this number based on FY21 student credit numbers, they must show 2% growth towards meeting this criterion*
- 85% of full-time students in the FBM program complete a FINAN analysis (whole farm at a minimum) and submit to the Minnesota statewide database



FBM Challenge Grant Parameters (continued)

- Local college encourages professional development for new FBM instructors (less than 4 years of FBM experience) by supporting them in the Professional Excellence Program (PEP) for early career mentoring
- Local college hosts at least five public stakeholder meetings, with at least one meeting required to be with a new audience (a minimum of five people in attendance at the new audience meeting)
- Local college completes a demographic report of FBM students, including age, gender, race/ethnicity, and number of years farming
- Local college administrator (i.e., FBM Dean), attends two of the four following statewide FBM activities (for at least one day):
 - Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators (MAAE) Ag Tech Conference
 - MAAE Summer Conference
 - FBM Fall Statewide Meeting
 - Database review (regional or state level)

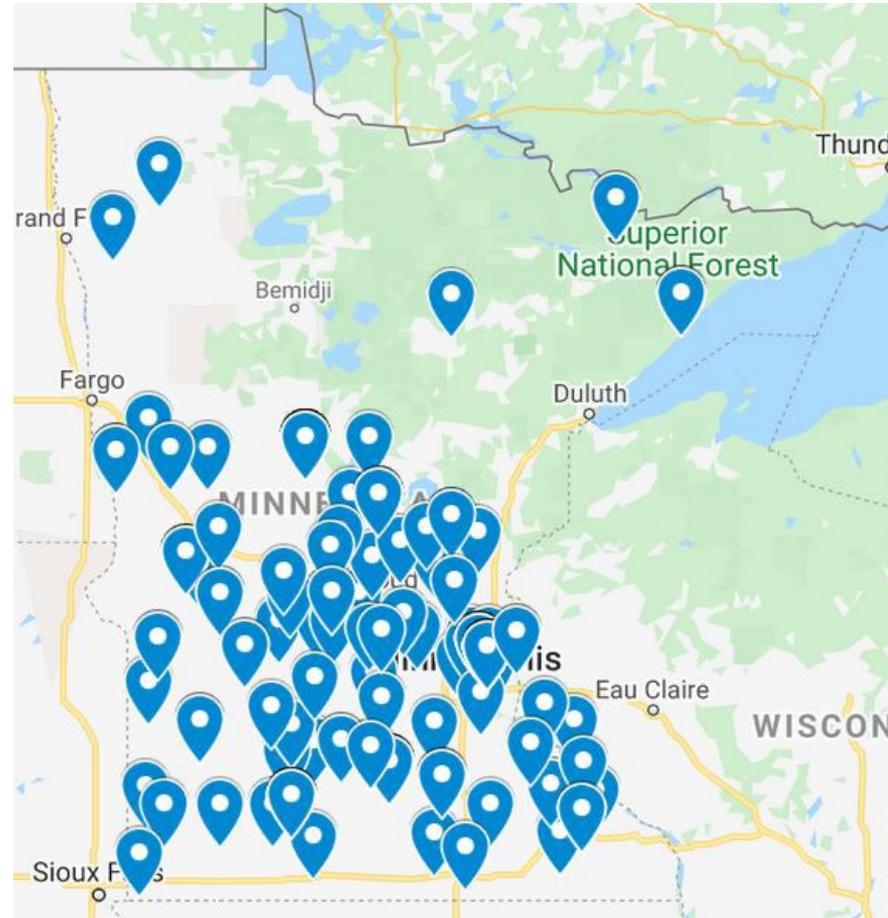


Program Grant Funds

\$250,000 / year

- **Common Fund (Statewide)**
- **Strategic Initiatives**

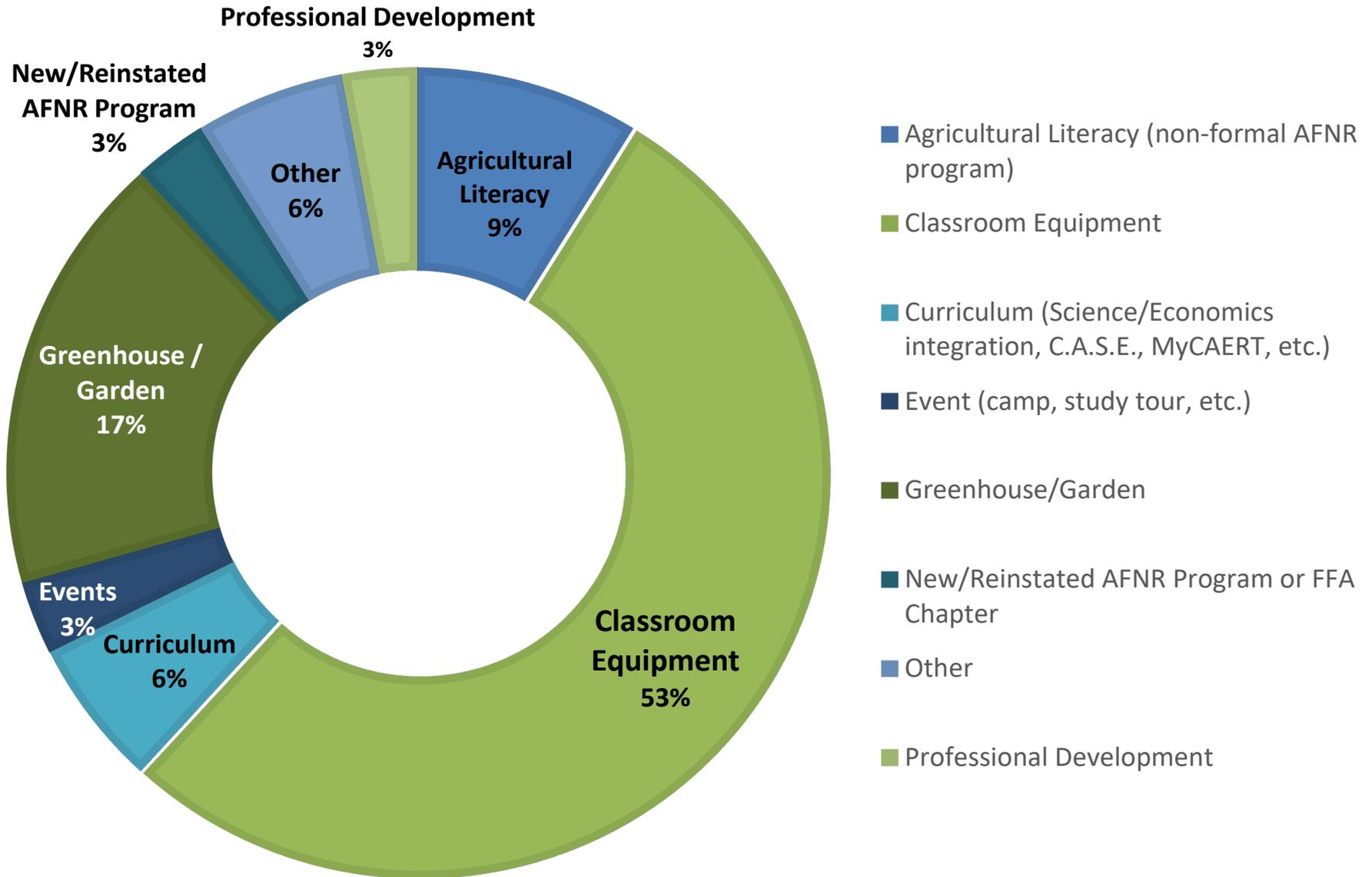
- **47% - School-Based Programs**
- **23% - Post-Secondary**
- **17% - AFNR Education Support Organizations**
- **13% - Agricultural Literacy**



*Nearly \$300,000 per year of grant requests go unfunded



Which Category Best Describes Your Grant Project?

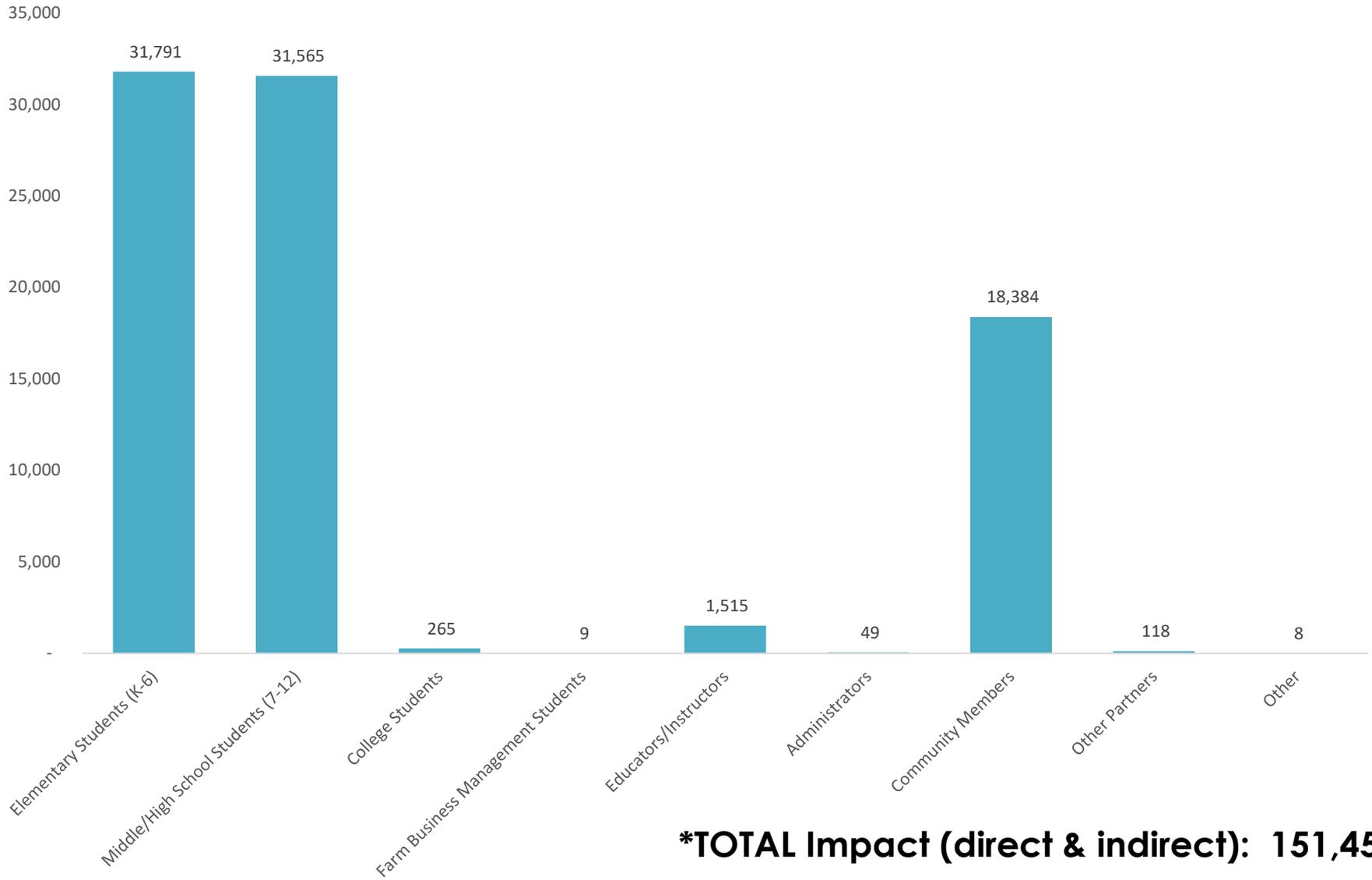




MAELC Grant Impact – One Year Example

**All information is self-reported by grantee*

Total Direct Impact: 83,704



***TOTAL Impact (direct & indirect): 151,455**



What is the greatest impact this grant has had in your school/community?



“I think that the greatest impact is in **career awareness and student curiosity** because it makes science more interesting and relevant.”

“I also feel with the lack of state funding for equipment to technical programs, grants like the **MAELC grant will become increasingly important** for programs to survive.”





Meeting MAELC's Mission

Teacher Recruitment & Retention

- **State Teach Ag Results (STAR)**
- **MAELC Scholarship Programs**
 - Undergraduate, Graduate & Diversity
- **Collegiate Internship Program**
- **Mentor Programs**
- **Professional Development**



Scholarship Funds

Undergraduate (Juniors & Seniors)

\$15,000

Graduate (Additional & Initial Licensure)

\$10,000

Diversity (Undergraduate & Graduate)

\$5,000/scholarship (MAELC/donor match)

Since 2000, MAELC has provided 781 scholarships for over \$797,000 to students studying Agricultural Education at the post-secondary level



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Thank you.

For more information, contact Sarah Dornink at:

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www.mn.gov/maelc