

Maria Consuelo Donato Molina

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College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
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EDUCATION

- 2018 Doctor of Philosophy in Hispanic Studies.
Texas A&M University - College Station
- 2001 Specialization in Agri-Business. 2000. Universidade Federal de
Uberlandia, Minas Gerais, Brasil. (372 Hrs. – equivalent to a M.S.)
- 1999 Master of Science degree in Rural Development. Universidad Javeriana,
Bogota, Colombia.
- 1996 Specialization in Analysis and Management in Conflict Resolution. Universidad
Nueva Granada, Bogotá, Colombia.
- 1991 B.S. in Agricultural Engineer. Universidad de Caldas, Manizales, Colombia.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 2025- currently Associate Professor of Instruction, Department of Agriculture,
Agribusiness & Environmental Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- 2025-currently Director of Strategic Initiatives, Dick & Mary Lewis Kleberg College of
Agriculture and Natural Resources, Texas A&M University- Kingsville.
- 2023-2025 Assistant Professor of Research & Instruction, Department of
Agriculture, Agribusiness & Environmental Sciences, Texas A&M University-
Kingsville.
- 2018-2023 Assistant Professor of Research, Department of Agriculture,
Agribusiness & Environmental Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville.
*2023-currently faculty for AGRI 3995 Internship Course. Department of
Agriculture, Agribusiness & Environmental Sciences, TAMUK.
*2019-2024 Program Coordinator for NSF- Center for Research Excellence in
Science and Technology for Sustainable Water Use (CREST-SWU) at Texas
A&M University-Kingsville.
*2018-currently Project Manager for USDA-NIFA HSI and AFRI Grants
“Undergraduate Career Experiences (Internships) & Research Opportunities
Program” in Dick & Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture and Natural
Resources, Texas A&M University- Kingsville
- 2018-2021 Adjunct faculty for AGR 3995 Internship Course. Department of Agriculture,
Agribusiness & Environmental Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville.
- 2018- 2021 Pos-doctoral Research Associate, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
US Department of Agriculture-AFRI-ELI Program.
- 2012 – 2018 Graduate Research Assistant as Project manager for USDA-NIFA
HSI and AFRI Grants in Dick & Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture
and Natural Resources, Texas A&M University- Kingsville
- 2017 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Fall Internship Course AGRI 3995.
- 2014 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Spanish instructor, Department of Language and
Literature, Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

2010 – 2012 Teacher and Research Assistant, Department of Animal, Rangeland and Wildlife Sciences, Texas A&M University- Kingsville.

2003-2009 Land Recovery Consultant, Uberlandia, Minas Gerais; Brazil.

1998-1999 Advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development of Colombia. Bogota, Colombia.

1995 -1998 Advisor to the General Director of the “Land Use National Institute of Colombia: Instituto Nacional de Adecuación de Tierras, INAT”. Bogotá.

1994-1995 Vice National Director of the “Integrated Rural Development Fund: Fondo de Desarrollo Rural Integrado, DRI.” Ministry (Department) of Agriculture, Bogotá, Colombia.

COURSES TAUGHT

2026 AGRI 3995 001 & 002 Internship Course

2025 AGRI 3995 001 & 002 Internship Course

2025 PLSS 4390 Global Fresh Produce Market Course. Co-teaching

2024 AGRI 3995 001 & 002 Internship Course

2024 BIOL 4355 Biotechnology Research, Ethics & Culture in Agriculture. Co-teaching

2024 PLSS 4390 Global Fresh Produce Market Course. Co-teaching

2023 AGRI 3995 001 & 002 Internship Course

2023 BIOL 4355 Biotechnology Research, Ethics & Culture in Agriculture. Co-teaching

2022 BIOL 4355 Biotechnology Research, Ethics & Culture in Agriculture. Co-teaching

2021 BIOL 4355 Biotechnology Research, Ethics & Culture in Agriculture. Co-teaching.

2020 AGRI 3995 001 & 002 Internship Course

2019 AGRI 3995 001 Internship Course

2018 PLSS 3995 001 & 002 Internship Course

2017 AGRI 3995 001 & 002 Internship Course

REFERRED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Tanguma, K., Perotto-Baldivieso, H., **Donato, M. C.**, Falk, A., Tolleson, D., Nelson, S. Very-Fine Resolution Multispectral Imagery for Rangeland Forage Quality Assessment. Rangeland Ecology & Management. 108: 98-108. 2026. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rama.2026.06.001>

Alapati, D., V. Ancona, M. Setamou, **C. Donato**, S.D. Nelson, and J. Reyes-Cabrera. 2025. Sunflower and Sunn Hemp potential as summer cover crops in southern Texas. Agronomy 15(4):986. <https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy15040986>

De Leon, D., Nelson, S., Setamou, M., Bhandari, A., Zamora, E., Zaragoza, A., **Donato C.**, Reyes-Cabrera, J. 2024. Enhanced Nutrition Program to Rehabilitate Freeze-Stressed Citrus in Subtropical Regions. HortScience 59(12):1763-1771. 2024. <https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTSCI18233-24>

Meagher, M., Anoruo, A., Turner, B., Holland, P., Nelson, S.D., **Donato-Molina, M.C.** 2024. Patch growth of seashore paspalum (*Paspalum vaginatum*) treated with inorganic fertilizer and organic biostimulant. Open Journal of Environmental Biology. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.17352/ojeb>

Morgan, E.I., Zamora, E., Nelson, S. D., **Donato-Molina, M. C** and Anoruo, A. 2024. Effects of deficit irrigation in pepper plants (*Capsicum annuum*) grown under greenhouse conditions. World J. Agri. & Soil Sci. 9(2):1-7. DOI:10.33552/WJASS.2024.09.000709

Anoruo, A., Turner, B., Garcia, M., Nelson, S., **Donato-Molina, M.C.** 2024. Morphological and Anatomical Development of *Solanum lycopersicum* Seedling Grown with Non-Conventional Water. Int J Agri Res Env Sci. 2024;5(1):1–4. DOI: 10.51626/ijares.2024.05.00039

Reyes-Cabrera, J., **Donato, C.** “Can cover crops do anything for the Texas citrus industry?” Supplement to HortScience Volume 58(9) September 2023.

NON-REFERRED PUBLICATIONS

Nelson, S., Stanko, R., **Donato, C.** Start Now to Reap the Rewards Later. Futurum Sci-Comm publishing. Pg. 1-6. <https://doi.org/10.33424/FUTURUM98>

Perotto, H., Hewitt, D., Ortega-S, A., Foley, A., DeYoung, R., Brennan, L., Kuvlesky, W., Hernandez, F., Tanner, E., Fulbright, T., Bell, N., **Donato, C.** “The Drone Program at CKWRI: 5 Years in the Skies” Caesar Kleberg Tracks 7(1), Spring 2022 pages 4-7.

PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Donato, M. C; Ancona, V., Cabrera, J. Learning Along the Supply Chain: *Site-Based Experiential Innovations in Teaching the Global Fresh Produce Market*. NACTA Conference. Starkville, Mississippi. June 2026.

Reyes-Cabrera, J., **Donato, C.**, Ancona, V. A mentoring program to enhance student retention and career readiness. North American College and Teachers Association. Starkville, Mississippi. June 2026.

Schuster, G., **Donato, C.** Friend, D., Elliot J., Lokensgard, M., Jordan, M. From Classroom to Global Fields: Supporting Undergraduate Students in International Agriculture. NACTA Conference. Starkville, Mississippi. June 2026.

Stanko, R. Sotomayor, D. Jayachandran, K., **Donato, C.**, Machado, T. Chumbley, S., Schuster, G., Nelson, S. Costa Rica: An Agriculturally Diverse, Affordable, Amiable, and Sustainable International Location for Experiential Learning in soil, animal, plant, and Environmental Sciences

Donato, C., Chumbley, S., Stanko, R., Nelson, S. The Undergraduate Career Experiences & Research Showcase. NACTA Conference, Edmonton, Canada. June 2-6, 2025.

Stanko, R., **Donato, C.**, Jayachandran, K., Sotomayor, D., Bhat, M., Chumbley, S., Machado, T., Nelson, S. **Getting Occupational Student Training in Agricultural Research Through Novel Workshops 9GO START NOW**) in Tropical Agriculture Production and USDA Agency Internship. NACTA Conference, Edmonton, Canada. June 2-6, 2025

Machado, T., **Donato, C.**, Sotomayor, D., Stanko, R., Nelson, S. Natural Resources Conservation Career Development of College Students Through Educational Tours. NACTA Conference, Edmonton, Canada. June 2-6, 2025

S.D. Nelson, R.L. Stanko, **C. Donato-Molina**, T. Machado, S. Chumbley, D. Sotomayor, K. Jayachandran, and M. Bhat. Getting occupational student training in agricultural research through novel workshops. Panel: *Investing in Equity & Agriculture: USDA-funded Collaborations at Hispanic-Serving Institutions*. A Community on Ecosystem Services (ACES) Conference. Austin, TX. Dec. 9-12, 2024 (Invited).

Donato, C., Valenzuela, M. (panelists). Celebrando Experiencias de Intercambio: Historias de Participantes Recientes del Programa 100K. Webinar for universities in Latin America and U.S. 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund – partners of the Americas. September 19, 2024. (Invited)

Velez-Hernandez, M., **Donato-Molina, M.C.** (Co-Presenters). Agriculture Connections to USDA: Lifestyle and Training of Undergraduates thru Real world Experiences (AgriCULTURE). Workshop. NACTA Annual Conference, Wooster, OH, June 24-28, 2024.

Tanguma, K., Perotto, H., **Donato, M. C.**, Falk, F., Tolleson, D., Nelson, N. “The Impact of Soil Moisture on Reflectance Values from Very High Fine Scale Remote Sensing Imagery”. ASA, CSSA, SSA Conference, San Antonio, Texas, November 10-13, 2024.

Gonzalez, M., Vela-Cordova, R., **Donato, M.C.** Empowering the Agriculture Industry: Recognizing the Need and Integration of Advanced Spanish Classes on Agriculture Undergraduate Students at Hispanic Serving Institutions. McNair Scholars Program. TAMUK, August 1, 2024.

Tanguma, K., Perotto, H., **Donato, M. C.**, Falk, F., Tolleson, D., Nelson, S. “Linking Soil Moisture with Photosynthetic Activity with very high-resolution imagery”
Nelson, S., **Donato, C.**, Ancona, V. “Higher Education in the United States: Innovation and Opportunities for Partnerships” Texas A&M University-Kingsville, August 18, 2023.

Jayachandran, K., **Donato, C.**, Nelson, S., Sotomayor, D., Stanko, R., and Espiritu, J. “Promoting undergraduate students in soil, environmental, and crop sciences careers through special experimental learning activities”. NACTA Annual Conference, Las Cruces, NM. June 20-23, 2023. (poster).

Tanguma, K., Perotto, H., Falk, A., Massey, L., Avila, J., Ortega, A., Tanner, E., **Donato, C.**, Nelson, S. “Measuring Water and Nutrients in Rangeland Grass Species: what can we learn from drone data?” Texas Section Society for Range Management, Denton, TX, October 19-21, 2022 (graduate poster).

Donato, C. “USDA Funding for Increasing Hispanic Students’ Success in Agricultural Careers”. Speaker at the Rotary Club-Kingsville Meeting. April 5, 2022. (oral)

Donato, C. “USDA Funding for Increasing Hispanic Students’ Success in Agricultural Careers”

Speaker at the Building Capacity and Competitiveness for over \$430M in USDA Grant Support Webinar, organized by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, March 1, 2022 [AASCU website](#) (focus on international grants)

Donato, C. “Texas A&M University-Kingsville: Un Lugar para Ciudadanos del Mundo Lideres en Agricultura” FITEM: Foro de Innovación Tecnológica y Emprendimiento. Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Salvatierra; Salvatierra, Guanajuato. March 12-13, 2021 (virtual).

Donato, C.; Chumbley, S.; Nelson, S. “Impact of Students’ Undergraduate Internship Experiences in the Development of Technical and Communication Skills for Agriculture.” ASA, CSSA and SSSA International Annual Meeting. Virtual, November 9-13, 2020 (Oral).

Donato, C.; Nelson, S. “START NOW for Increasing Hispanic Students in Horticultural Sciences.” American Society for Horticulture Science Annual Conference. Virtual, August 10-13, 2020 (International workshop).

Venegas, B; Sanchez, Y; **Donato, C;** Ganguli, A. (Co-Presenters). “Career with USDA-NRCS, Guiding Students on Internship Opportunities. Latinos in Agriculture Leaders Conference, Dallas, Texas, November 8, 2018. (Oral)

Donato, C. “Mexican and Mexican-American farmworkers and the American Dream.” South Central Modern Language Association Conference. San Antonio, October 13, 2018. (Oral)

Donato, C. “Sueños y pesadillas de trabajadores rurales migrantes en tres novelas chicanas: ... *Y no se lo trago la tierra, Corazón descalzo y Under the Feet of Jesus.*” (PhD dissertation). Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX. April 19, 2017. (Oral)

Donato, C; Hartwig, R. “The Peace process in Colombia.” Southwest Council of Latin American Studies (SCOLAS) Conference. Campeche, Mexico. March 9, 2017. (Oral)

Ruppert, D; Nelson, S; Stanko, R; Schuster, G; Machado, T; **Donato, C.** “Student Training in Agricultural Research Techniques by Novel Occupational Workshops (START NOW).” Workforce Diversity and Career Opportunities within the USDA for Current and Recent Graduates Conference. Albuquerque, NM. February 16, 2017. (Poster)

Stanko, R; Nelson, S; Machado, T; Schuster, G; **Donato, C;** “Finding Balance in Undergraduate Research for Graduate School and Career Preparation in Agricultural Sciences.” 2016 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Conference, University of Hawaii, Manoa. June 21, 2016. (Oral)

Nelson, S; Stanko, R; Machado, T; Schuster, G; **Donato, C.** Lukefahr, S. “STEP UP to USDA Career Success Program Participation Increased Graduation Rates and Final GPA of Undergraduate Agriculture Students from South Texas.” 2016 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Conference. University of Hawaii, Manoa. June 21, 2016. (Oral)

Stanko, R; Nelson, S; Machado, T; Schuster, G; **Donato, C.** “Challenges and Opportunities for Underrepresented Agriculture Students in Obtaining USDA Job Training in the STEP UP to USDA Career Success Program.” 2015 North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) Conference. Athens, Georgia. June 16, 2015. (Poster)

Donato, C. “El jazz en Rayuela: un viaje de reconciliación con el pasado rural” SIGMA DELTA PI 14th Student Academic Symposium. Department of Language and Literature, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX. April 22, 2015. (Oral)

Donato, C; Stanko, R; Nelson, S; Machado, T; Schuster, G. “Engaging Underrepresented Students through Ag Related Career and Research Training in the ‘STEP UP to USDA Career Success’ Program.” Agricultural Science Education Conference. Miami, FL November 20th to 21st, 2014. (Poster)

Donato, C. “Poesía y feminismo en al-Andalús: Wallāda la Omeya y Hafsa Bint al-Hāỵ Ar-Rakūniyya de Granada.” SIGMA DELTA PI 13th Student Academic Symposium. Department of Language and Literature, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX. November 13, 2014. (Oral)

Donato, C. “El sujeto rural fundacional en la “silva de la agricultura de la zona tórrida” SIGMA DELTA PI 12th Student Academic Symposium. Department of Language and Literature, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX. April 24, 2014. (Oral)

Donato, C. “El sujeto rural y la ruptura de la tradición en ‘...Y no se lo trago la tierra’”. SIGMA DELTA PI 11th Student Academic Symposium. Department of Language and Literature, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX. October 24, 2013. (Oral)

Donato, C. “El Giro Esclavista: Género y Raza en la novela Sab”. SIGMA DELTA PI 10th Student Academic Symposium. Department of Language and Literature, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX. April 25, 2013. (Oral)

Donato, C; Nelson, S; Schuster, G; Stanko, R; Machado, T. “Preparing Hispanic Students to be Leaders in their Communities.” CETARS Symposium. August 12-13, 2013. Mayagüez, Puerto Rico (Poster)

Donato, C. “Continuidad y ruptura de la mentalidad colonial en Arturo Bustos”. SIGMA DELTA PI 9th Student Academic Symposium. Department of Language and Literature, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX. November 1, 2012. (Oral)

REFERRER ABSTRACTS

Stanko, R.L., S.D. Nelson, T.J. Machado, G.L. Schuster, and **C. Donato-Molina.** 2015. Opportunities for underrepresented agriculture students in obtaining USDA job training in the STEP UP to USDA Career Success program. 61st Annual NACTA Conference. NACTA Journal 59(Suppl. 1):77

Donato, C., Nelson, S., Schuster, G., Stanko, R. and Machado, T. 2014. Preparing Hispanic students to be leaders in their communities. 60th Annual NACTA Conference. NACTA Journal 58(Suppl. 1): 48.

Stanko, R.L., S.D. Nelson, T.J. Machado, G.L. Schuster, and **C. Donato-Molina.** 2014. Engaging underrepresented agriculture students through research and job training in the STEP UP to USDA career success program. 60th Annual NACTA Conference. NACTA Journal 58(Suppl. 1): 74

RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

GRANTS AWARDED and MANAGED

TAMUK funded Grants \$4 million awarded to Dr. Donato as P.D/Co-P.D.

TAMUK Managed Grants: Between 2012 and 2025, Dr. Donato has managed over \$20 million in grants funding across multiple interdisciplinary and multi-Institutional agricultural projects.

TAMUK Students Served: over 600 UG, over 200 MS & PhD Students.

Funded Grants:

\$750,000 USDA-NRCS. Natural Resource Career Development Program and NRCS Educational Tours. PD: T. Machado, Co-PDs: M.C. Donato, R. Stanko, S. Dattamudi, G. Schuster. 9/1/2024-08/31/2029

\$237,440 USDA-NIFA HSI collaborative grant program. Educating the Future Workforce of Underrepresented Students in International Agriculture. St. Mary's lead, TAMUK, Norman Borlaug Institute-TAMU. TAMUK PD: G. Schuster, Co-PDs: M.C. Donato, D. Friend. 9/1/2023-8/31/27 (total amount of this grant is \$1,000,000)

\$150,000 USDA-NRCS. Natural Resource Career Development Program and NRCS Educational Tours. PD: T. Machado Co-PDs: M.C. Donato, R. Stanko, and S. Dattamudi. 9/1/2023-07/01/2025

\$ 34,250 Partners of the Americas Foundation (in collaboration with the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs of the U.S. Department of State-WHA/DOS). Data Analysis and Entrepreneurship: A Binational (U.S. – Brazil) Faculty and Student Exchange program. TAMUK lead, Instituto Federal Goiano, Brazil and Serviço Nacional de Aprendizagem Industria (SENAI), Brazil. PD: J. Espiritu, Co-PDs: C. Donato, F.O. Aguirre, H.A. Taboada, and S.D. Nelson. 12/7/22-12/31/23.

\$257,000 USDA-NIFA-HSI regular grant program. Connecting the Dots in the Global Fresh Produce Market. PD: V. Ancona, Co-PDs: M.C. Donato, J. Cabrera. 9/1/22-8/31/26.

\$975,314 USDA-NIFA HSI collaborative grant program. GO START NOW. TAMUK lead, FIU and UPRM. PD: R. Stanko, CoPDs: S. Nelson, S. Chumbley, M. Consuelo Donato, T. Machado, A. Bhandari, G. Schuster, K. Jayachandran (FIU), D. Sotomayor (UPRM), et. al. 9/1/21-8/31/25.

\$400,000 USDA-NIFA-AFRI REEU grant program. The Drone WAVE FACTOR. PD: H. Perotto, CoPDs: M.C. Donato, E. Tanner, N. Mast. 9/1/21-8/31/2025

\$200,000 USDA-NIFA- AFRI -Multicultural Scholars grant program. Pre-Vet Experiential Agriculture Learning (M-SPEAL). PD: T. Machado, Co-PDs: C. Donato, M. Garcia, J. Apple, S. Nelson. 9/1/21-8/31/24.

\$150,000 USDA-NRCS. Natural Resource Career Development Program and NRCS Educational Tours. T. Machado (PD), M.C. Donato, R. Stanko, and S.D. Nelson. 9/1/2021-07/01/2023

\$120,000 USDA-NRCS. Promoting NRCS as Employer of Choice. PD: M.C Donato, Co-PD: H. Perotto. 08/20/2021 – 12/31/2024

\$275,000 USDA-NIFA-HSI regular grant program. AgriCULTURE. PD: M. Velez-Hernandez, CoPDs: S. Nelson, T. Machado, M. C. Donato. 9/1/20-8/31/2024.

\$155,000 USDA-NRCS. Provide NRCS Educational Tours, Internships and Career Opportunities for Hispanic and Other Students. T. Machado (PD), S.D. Nelson, M.C. Donato, R. Stanko, D. Sotomayor (UPRM). 9/1/2019-07/01/2021

\$ 100,000 USDA-NRCS. Provide NRCS Educational Tours, Internships and Career Opportunities for Hispanic and Other Students. T. Machado (PD), S.D. Nelson, M.C. Donato, R. Stanko, D. Sotomayor (UPRM). 9/1/2018-07/01/2020.

\$ 165,000 USDA-NIFA Post-Doctoral Fellows grants. START ACTING: Student Track & Awareness in Relation to Agriculture Careers, Transition between Institutions & Novel Gain. M.C. Donato (PD), S.D. Nelson (Co-PD). (6/18-5/21).

Proposal Submitted but not Funded:

\$859,102.80 USDA-NIFA-AFRI-Foundational and Applied Science Program- Advancing precise water and nutrient management for citrus production in subtropical regions. Cabrera, J. (PD); Co-PDs: Donato, C, Singh, A, Guzman, S.

\$29,876,096.00 U.S. Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service-Food for Progress Program. Improving productivity of Colombian livestock systems through affordable smart technologies. Donato, C. (PD). Donato, C., T.J. Machado, R. Stanko, B. Turner, S. Nelson, J. Foster, R. Hardin, M. Bhandari, K. Harborth, T. Andrews, M.F.C. Munoz, H. Rodriguez, and J.F. Guarin. 2025

\$500,000 National Science Foundation-HSI. CURE the Invasion: A Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experience in Invasion Biology for South Texas Ecosystems. Agunbiade, T. (PD); Co-PDs: Kunta, M. Donato, C; Soti, P. 2025

\$150,000 USDA-NIFA-AFRI Developing an Alliance for Training for Agriculture in Urban Settings (DATA-US). Valles-Rosales, D. (PD) Co-PDs: Taboada, H., Donato, C. 2025

\$67,065 100,000 Strong in the Americas Fund. Promoting 100K Climate-Smart Practices on Colombian-US Rangelands Using Systems-Based Education. PD: C. Donato, Co-PDs: F. Hernandez, S. Nelson, B. Turner, E. Staiger, E. Sanchez. 2024.

\$400,000 USDA-NIFA HSI Regular Program- Development of a Field-based Course Linking Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Wildlife Science at a Rural Hispanic Serving Institution. PD: J. Giese; Co-PDs: C. Donato, B. Ballard 2024.

\$38,970 100K Strong in the Americas Program - Green Energy Systems and Entrepreneurship: A Bi national (U.S. - Brazil) Faculty and Student Exchange. PD: F. Aguirre, Co-PDs: C. Donato, S. Nelson, H. Taboada. 2024

\$20,000,000 USDA-NIFA NEXTGEN. PIPELINE for HIS ACES: Promoting Innovation and Professionalism through Experiential Learning and Investigation for NEXTGEN Excellence for Hispanic Serving Institution AgriCulture and Engineering Students.

PD: S. Nelson, Co-PDs: C. Donato, R. Stanko; T. Machado; B. Ballard; G. Schuster; S. Chumbley, B. Turner; V. Ancona, J. Cabrera; D. Ramirez; J. Ren; S. Ozcelik; T. Sinha; Hui Li; K. Jayachandran (FIU); D. Sotomayor (UPRM); R. Luna (Sul Ross) J. Landivar (AgriLife-CC); J. Jifon (AgriLife-W). 2023.

\$750,000 USDA-NIFA Higher Education Challenge. Transforming Agricultural Education: Using A Diverse and Multidisciplinary Learning Community of Practice to Train Students for 21st Century Agricultural Challenges. PD: F. Hernandez, Co-PDs: C. Donato, B. Meador, M. Smith, M. Downey. 2022 & 2023.

\$750,000 USDA-NIFA-REEU Program. “Preparing undergraduate students for research, higher studies and career in Agricultural and Environmental Engineering”. Collaboration with TAMUK-College of Engineering. PD: S. Alam, Co-PDs: C. Donato, R. Stanko, T. Machado. 2022

\$750,000 USDA-NIFA Higher Education Challenge. CARE-RISES: Culture and Agriculture in Rural Economies: Responses Invested in Sustainable Economic Solutions. PD: R. Vela, Co-PDs: C. Donato, S. Chumbley, M. Íñiguez, C. Reiser, T. Chumbley, D. Sotomayor, A. Mukhopadhyay; A. Bhandari; R. Rodriguez. 2021.

\$500,000 USDA-AFRI REEU -Education Workforce Development Program. International AWE: Building Student Capacity through International Agriculture Workforce Enhancement through Research and Extension Experiences. PD: R. Hanagriff, Co-PDs: C. Donato, S. Nelson, Universidad de Caldas, Colombia. 2021

\$1,000,000 USDA-NIFA HIS Collaborative Grant Program. Develop & Implement Bilingual Poultry Welfare Curriculum to Supplement Animal Science Production Education & Increase Underrepresented Student Employability. PD: K. Tarrant, Co-PDs: K. Dawn, J. Apple, C. Donato.

\$250,000 USDA-NIFA HIS Regular Grant Program. Women Empowering Women: A Mentorship Program for Career Success. PD: C. Donato, Co-PDs: G. Schuster, V. Ancona. 2020.

GRANT PROGRAM MANAGER ACTIVITIES

USDA Grants- Undergraduate Career Experiences (internships) & Research Opportunities Program

Undergraduate Students Served and Placed in Summer Internships

Year	Undergraduate Students Served	Undergraduate Placed in Summer Internships
2012	35	-
2013	29	29
2014	31	31

2015	40	40
2016	21	21
2017	36	33
2018	43	43
2019	49	44
2020	39	-
2021	31	26
2022	40	20
2023	58	24
2024	54	22
2025	33	17
2026	24	13

Student Agricultural Tours Created and Supervised

Year	Location	Total # TAMUK Students
2017	Costa Rica Workshop	3
2018	Costa Rica Workshop	3
2019	Costa Rica Workshop	3
2019	Puerto Rico & Texas Educational Tours	5
2021	Costa Rica Workshop	10
2021	Puerto Rico & Texas Educational Tours	5
2021	Puerto Rico - AgriCULTURE Tour	5
2022	Costa Rica Workshop	5
2022	Puerto Rico & Texas Educational Tours	5
2022	Puerto Rico - AgriCULTURE Tour	5
2022	Colombia – Educational Workshop	5
2023	Mexico – Educational AG-Tour	10
2023	Brazil – Educational AG-Tour	6
2023	Colombia – Educational Workshop	4
2023	California -Educational AG-Tour	5
2023	Puerto Rico & Texas Educational Tours	7
2024	Costa Rica Workshop	5
2024	Puerto Rico - AgriCULTURE Tour	5
2024	Brazil – Educational AG-Tour	2
2024	Guatemala – Educational AG-Tour	1
2024	Florida- Educational AG-Tour	5
2024	Mexico – Educational AG-Tour	10
2025	Brazil – Educational AG-Tour	5
2025	Guatemala – Educational AG-Tour	4
2025	Mexico – Educational AG-Tour	10
2026	Brazil – Educational AG-Tour	5
2026	Guatemala – Educational AG-Tour	6

NSF Grant – CREST- SWU Research Center for Sustainable Water Use
Colleges of Agriculture & Engineering

Students Served and Placed in Research Projects

Year	Undergraduate	Master	PhD
2019-2020	2	12	-
2020-2021	15	18	1
2021-2022	22	19	3
2022-2023	10	18	4
2023-2024	11	10	3
2024-2025	8	8	1
2025-2026	22	12	1

Advisory Board Committees Arranged

Date	Place	Grant
03/21/2021	TAMUK	NSF CREST-SWU
04/21/2022	TAMUK	NSF CREST-SWU
04/24-25/2023	TAMUK	NSF CREST-SWU
06/17/2024	online	NSF CREST-SWU

Student Presentations - Events Arranged/Supervised

USDA Grants

Date	Event
09/20/2021	“2017 Student Summer Career Experience (Internships) Presentations”
09/19/2018	“2018 Student Summer Career Experience (Internships) Presentations”
09/24/2019	“2019 Student Summer Career Experience (Internships) Presentations”
03/24/2024	“Climate Smart Agriculture Student Symposium”
10/04/2024	“Undergraduate Career Experiences (internships) & Research Showcase 2023-2024
10/22/2025	“Undergraduate Career Experiences (internships) & Research Showcase 2024-2025

NSF CREST-SWU Grant

Date	Event
08/09/2021	“NSF CREST-SWU Students Symposium”
07/27/2022	“NSF CREST-SWU Students Symposium”
04/24/2023	“NSF CREST-SWU Students Symposium”
07/31/2024	“NSF CREST-SWU Students Symposium”
04/22/2025	“NSF CREST-SWU Students Symposium”

INSTITUTIONAL ADVISING

2025- TAMUK- Fulbright Program Advisor
2024 USAID Point of contact for TAMUK.
2022-2024 HACU- USDA-FAS Agricultural Export Market Challenge. Faculty Advisor.

STUDENT ADVISING

Graduate Student Advisor

Keerthana Daffodil Bhattu, Master Research Project: Hydroponic Fodder Production System: a project guide for sustainable livestock management in India. Graduate Summer 2026. Committee Chair.

Myrka Gonzalez, Master Thesis: Empowering the Agriculture Industry: Recognizing the need and integration of Spanish for specific purposes at Texas A&M University-Kingsville a Hispanic Serving Institution. Committee Member.

Kimberly Tanguma, Master thesis: Measuring Water and Nutrients in Rangeland Grass Species: What Can We Learn from Drones? Graduated Spring 2025. Committee Chair.

Gabriel Aguilar, Master thesis: Students' sense of Belonging within the College of Agriculture at a Hispanic Serving Institution. Graduated Spring 2025. Committee Member

Undergraduate Student Advisor

Myrka Gonzalez, McNair Scholar, Summer 2024. Research Project: Empowering the Agriculture Industry: Recognizing the Need and Integration of Advanced Spanish Classes on Agriculture Undergraduate Students at Hispanic Serving Institutions. Mentor.

Faculty Advisor for Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) – TAMUK Chapter.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH ACTIVITIES

2025 President's Aspiring leaders Program
2024 USAID Institutional Point of Contact for TAMUK
2024 Leading MOU between TAMUK and Enugu State University, Nigeria.
2024 Leading MOU between TAMUK and University of Sargodha, Pakistan
2024 Leading MOU between TAMUK and Bahauddin Zakariya University, Pakistan
2024 Leading MOU between TAMUK and Universidad Dr. Andres Bello, El Salvador
2024 Leading MOU between TAMUK and Universidade Federal de Uberlândia, Brazil.
2024 USDA-NIFA-AFRI Peer Reviewer Panel Member
2022 Led MOU between TAMUK and Serviço Nacional de Aprendizagem Industrial-SENAI, Goiás, Brazil.
2022 Led MOU between TAMUK and Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia Goiano, Goias,
2022 Led Agreement for Collaborative Activities between TAMUK-College of

	Agriculture and Natural Resources and Universidad de Caldas (Colombia)- College of Agriculture.
2022	Led Agreement for Collaborative Activities between TAMUK-College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Salvatierra, Mexico.
2022	Led MOU between TAMUK-College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, College of Engineering and JuventudEsGto to provide scholarships for students from the State of Guanajuato, Mexico to attend G.S at TAMUK.
2021	Led MOU between TAMUK and Universidad de Caldas (Colombia)
2021	Led MOU between TAMUK and Instituto Tecnológico Superior de Salvatierra, Mexico.
2021	USDA-NIFA-AFRI Peer Reviewer Panel Member

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, NACTA. Member.

American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science Society of
America (ASA, CSSA and SSSA). Member.

TAMUK-Hispanic Faculty Council, 2020 – currently. Member.

The Honor Society of PHI KAPPA PHI. Member.

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences – Texas A&M University-
Kingsville. Faculty advisor.

Spanish National Honor Society, chapter Texas A&M Kingsville. Member.

SIGMA DELTA PHI, Language & Literature. Chapter Texas A&M University-Kingsville.
Member.

LEADERSHIP SERVICE – TAMU-KINGSVILLE

2025-	College of Agriculture & Natural Resources 4DX Leadership Team Member
2025	Search Committee member for Education Abroad Advisor
2025	Search Committee member for the International Graduate Recruiter Coordinator
2024	International Student Strategic Planning Committee member
2024-currently	Chair: Committee for Website for the AAES Department
2024-currently	Member: Committee for Admissions for the AAES Department
2024	USDA-NRCS-TAMUK Direct Hiring Event – Co-Coordinator
2023	Search Committee member for the Director of International Students Services
2022-currently	General Education Committee member
2022-currently	Curatorial Council Member for the “Re-Envisioning the Conner Museum & South Texas Archives”
2022-currently	Conner Museum Ground Project: Annual Tamalada Festival - Planning Committee Member
2022-currently	Faculty Advisor for the Minorities in Agriculture (MANRRS) TAMUK-Chapter
2022-currently	University Women’s Club member
2022	TAMUK Strategic Enrollment Plan Development. I served as a group member for the Marketing/Communications Group.
2022	Hispanic Heritage Committee member.
2022	Smithsonian Intern Selection Committee member.

HONORS and AWARDS

- 2024 USDA HSI E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship.
- 2022 – 2023 Dean's Excellence Award for *Dick & Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture & Natural Resources, Texas A&M University-Kingsville*
- 2018 – 2020 USDA-NIFA AFRI-ELI Post-Doctoral Fellowship. Award #2018-67012-27987. HSI Grant in *Department of Agriculture, Agribusiness & Environmental Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville.*
- 2012 – 2018 USDA-NIFA Pre-Doctoral Fellowship. HSI Grant in *Dick & Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Human Sciences, Texas A&M University- Kingsville.*
- 2015 – 2016 Advising Award for *Dick & Mary Lewis Kleberg College of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Human Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville.*
- 2014 Graduate Teaching Assistantship. *Department of Language and Literature, Texas A&M University - Kingsville.*

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

- 2025 Global Engagement TAMUK Faculty Training- Costa Rica
- 2014 Cultural Studies. Texas A&M University-Kingsville to Morocco and Spain.
- 2013 Cultural Studies. Texas A&M University-Kingsville to Puerto Rico.