1. Objectives/aims

The 2023 NAPPN annual conference leverages the successes of the previous Phenome conference series (2016-2020) and the previous NAPPN annual conferences (2021-2022). The conference will assemble a range of sciences and technologies in engineering, agronomy, ecology, and plant systems biology from among academic, federal, and commercial entities to address the plant-environment interface.

A key goal of the conference is to invite and support a new generation and a broad community of scientists from diverse scientific and cultural backgrounds. By participating in these types of exchanges attendees will accelerate the rate of advance in phenotyping by populating the field with innovative and neurodiverse thinkers.

As part of our effort to diversify the plant phenomics research community, we request funding from AG2PI to support the participation of students, postdoctoral scholars and faculty members from minority serving institutions (MSIs) including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs).

We have announced this year's conference (https://www.plantphenotyping.org/) and intent to provide support through emails and direct contact with faculty and administrators at MSIs.

2. Furthering the aims of the AG2PI

The proposed participant support directly furthers the AG2PI aim of building the agricultural phenotyping community. Specifically, it will increase representation of participants from MSIs at the NAPPN conference, which is closely aligned with AG2PI's mission, and raise awareness of AG2PI and related USDA requests for proposals among interested scientists from MSIs.

3. Expected outcomes & deliverables The requested travel support will be preferentially allocated to encourage participation by faculty / student pairs. We expect to support up to eight participants. Each participant will also be paired with one or more hosts. Hosts will be selected from the conference program committee and NAPPN board. Our hope is to extend the network of plant phenomics researchers to include more participants from MSIs, and to identify barriers to participation that can be addressed by future meetings. The conference will provide an

opportunity for these participants to learn about the field, attend workshops and community meetings, and find new colleagues for future collaborations.

4. Qualifications of the project team

Jennifer Clarke is the Past Chair of NAPPN, Malia Gehan is the Chair of the NAPPN, and Noah Fahlgren is the co-Chair of the NAPPN 2023 Annual Conference. NAPPN members organized a similar opportunity for attendees of the NAPPN 2022 Conference. All three have attended and helped organize past NAPPN (and Phenome) conferences and actively conduct research and contribute to building the community.

5. Proposal timeline

The conference will be held from February 14-17 in St. Louis, Missouri. As soon as funding is available, applicants will be contacted to confirm their interest and arrange travel.

6. Engaging AG2P scientific communities & underrepresented groups

Each new participant will be partnered with a current active member in the NAPPN community who shares domain expertise. These new participants will gain exposure to AG2PI research and the AG2PI seed grant opportunity.