WHAT IS HASA?
The Hoosier Agribusiness Science Academy

HASA started with a small group of 10-15 students traveling throughout the academic year on educational field trips to a variety of agribusinesses in Indianapolis and surrounding areas. The HASA initiative is just one effort developed by former Lt. Governor Becky Skillman to encourage Indiana students to get involved in one of Indiana’s cornerstone industries, agriculture. "Indiana has a long tradition of agriculture, which is a source of pride and an economic force in our state. My priority is to ensure agriculture thrives in our State, and offers new opportunities for the benefit of all Hoosiers. HASA is one way we are doing that," said Skillman. In the summer of 2008, the Office of Multicultural Programs (OMP) in the College of Agriculture (CoA) at Purdue developed a two-week residential Agricultural Career Discovery Camp experience. The goal of this pre-college summer enrichment was to expose urban high school students to the field of agricultural sciences. OMP’s goal was in perfect alignment with the HASA program, so a partnership with Skillman’s office was formed. The two programs united in the summer of 2009 and officially starting in 2010 will be referred to as the Hoosier Agribusiness Science Academy (HASA).

The co-curricular activities are being developed by a small core group of College of Agriculture (CoA) faculty with input from and in collaboration with middle school and high school principals and science teachers. These activities will be developed in accordance with the Indiana State Standards for science and agriculture to build on and enhance agricultural science related concepts. These concepts are discussed and agreed upon by a team of CoA faculty, principals, and science teachers from the six target high schools and their feeder middle schools. In addition to this collaboration from the small core group, each department in CoA has designated a representative to meet each month to plan the summer portion of the Academy. These meetings help finalize preparations for activities each department will utilize to engage each student during the summer. As we move forward in 2013, the HASA summer institute continues to evolve and as changes and funding allocations come about, the institute will consist of three tiers:
Tier 1
Consist of 1 to 3 Agriculture themed summer’s day, in targeted locations in the State of Indiana. CoA academic departments will offer hands-on, fun activities and applied experiences for 6th thru 8th grades within the Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Mathematics (STEaM) fields to get students excited about the majors and careers in agriculture.

Tier 2
Consist of a 3-day residential program for up to 20 selected high school students entering 9th and 10th grade as well as 10-12 Science teachers from Indiana. The intent is to immerse participants in an exciting world of applied agricultural STEaM, through a series of hands-on labs, and workshops designed to provide real-life experiences. Teachers will have the opportunity to receive CEU credits and curriculum plans to implement in the classroom. Teachers will also select 2 students to attend this program (Coming in summer 2014)

Tier 3
Consist of a 13-day residential program for up to 40 high school students entering 11th and 12th grade with post-secondary aspiration and intentions. The intent is to immerse participants in a specific field of study, through a series of hands-on labs, and workshops designed to provide real-life experiences within the STEaM fields throughout our academic departments offered through the College of Agriculture at Purdue University. Students will pick a track (theme) of study and have research projects to complete and present during the institute.

The summer experience will serve as a bridge between the science curriculum/co-curricular that students will be engaged in during the school year and hands-on labs, workshops, and presentations during the institute. Students will have an opportunity to apply in the summer what they have learned throughout the academic year. Relevance and experiential education is extremely important in helping students to learn. The student becomes more actively involved in the learning process than in traditional, didactic education. HASA is a bridge program designed to prepare students for the transition to post-secondary education.