



# AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES REGIONAL WORKFORCE - SYMPOSIUM II

*Registration is now open:*



DESERT SOUTHWEST REGION  
symposium series



**Registration**



\*REFRESHMENTS &  
SNACKS WILL BE SERVED

**Feb 23, 2022, 1pm-5pm**

Establishing a world-class platform in the desert southwest to support STEM workforce development and increase opportunities for entrepreneurial innovation, and economic growth.

**TO BE PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE,  
WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE FUTURE**

**NEW TECH & INNOVATION  
FOOD "THE SUPERHERO"  
THE FUTURE OF LABOR  
FORUM DISCUSSION**



**AWC 3C Building  
Yuma, AZ**



**Zoom option  
available**





# About the Agriculture Workforce and Innovation Symposium

The Agricultural Workforce and Innovation Symposium will include presentations and discussions on diversity in agriculture, technology integration in agriculture, characteristics of the Generation 'Z' workforce, agricultural futurism, Ag impact on health systems, successful industry/higher education collaboration models, opportunities for funding, collaboration, and other support from the United States Department of Agriculture-NRCS.

Attend in person as a part of the **Southwest Ag Summit**  
<https://yumafreshveg.com/southwest-ag-summit/#Feb23>

**Field demos, Trade Show, and Lunch (8:30am-1:30pm)**

**AG Symposium (1pm-5pm)**

**Reception (5:30pm-8:30pm)**



Arizona Western College Building\_3C



There will be a Zoom option available to join  
**AG Symposium** for those who cannot attend in person

## About the "Growing our Own" Initiative



- To help address current and future workforce gaps, demands, and opportunities, The University of Arizona in Yuma (UAZ in Yuma) and partners; Arizona Western College (AWC), Imperial Valley College (IVC), UAZ College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), Greater Yuma Economic Development (GYEDC), and Yuma County Chamber of Commerce, has teamed up USDA/NRCS to launch a regional "Growing Our Own" initiative aimed at developing local talent workforce who have the skills and knowledge in STEM areas (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) through a **four symposium series** (figure 1).

**The overall goal of the "Growing Our Own" initiative is to establish a world-class platform in the desert southwest to support STEM workforce development and increase opportunities for entrepreneurial innovation and economic growth.**

- The first symposium focused on regional workforce gaps, opportunities, economic development demands, and the evolution of trends in **Engineering and Technology**.

Access the final report [here](https://arizona.box.com/s/zt9o8aydnjb75ju3eshsdswdjf8s9hr3):

<https://arizona.box.com/s/zt9o8aydnjb75ju3eshsdswdjf8s9hr3>

**Desert Southwest Region GROWING OUR OWN symposium series**  
Establishing a world-class platform in the desert southwest to support STEM workforce development and increase opportunities for entrepreneurial innovation, and economic growth.

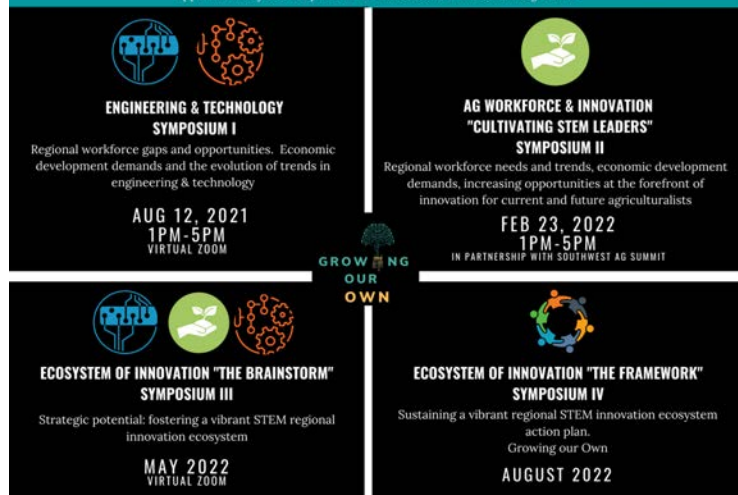


Figure 1. Growing Our Own Symposium series.



UA Yuma is a University of Arizona campus serving La Paz and all of Yuma County. We offer 20 majors to meet the needs of our local community, and also those of working students of all ages.

By expanding your knowledge and skill-set to achieve a career that directly impacts your community, you'd be joining the ranks of other UA Yuma alumni who are successfully nourishing in their chosen careers. [@uazuma](https://uazuma.edu)



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA-NRCS vision is to provide economic opportunity through innovation, helping rural America to thrive; to promote agriculture production that better nourishes Americans while also helping feed others throughout the world; and to preserve our Nation's natural resources through conservation, restored forests, improved watersheds, and healthy private working lands.



For over six decades, Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association has believed in the importance of providing an opportunity for discussion and strategic action regarding any problems facing the industry. By coming together and solving problems in a cooperative atmosphere, ideas and discussion are turned into an action plan that has real, positive benefits for Yuma's agriculture industry. In addition to focusing on issues facing the Yuma area ag industry, YFVA believes strongly in sharing Yuma's agriculture story with the world and supporting the next generation of agriculture innovators. YFVA has created and/or managed annual community events and programs that support this belief.



College of Agriculture  
& Life Sciences



Greater Yuma  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
Yuma Center of Excellence  
for Desert Agriculture