

# Valeria Cano Camacho

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## Education:

### Iowa State University

Master of Science

Major: Soil Science

Estimated Graduation December 2021

### Iowa State University

Bachelor of Science

Majors: Agronomy & Global Resource Systems

May 2019

## Professional Experience:

**Graduate Assistantship** – Department of Agronomy – McDaniel and Licht Lab Groups, Ames, Iowa

May 2019 – Present

- Investigating soil and plant health effects with biological seed treatments
- Collected crop physiological data, soil samples, conducting statistical analysis, and writing appropriate content and synthesizing literature for publishable material

**Student Management and Academic Response Team Member** – Iowa State University

Fall 2020 - Spring 2021

- Mentored total of 13 students weekly for 30-60 minutes over 3 semesters and created individualized plans to increase overall well-being of students

**Undergraduate Research Assistant** - Department of Agronomy – Heaton Lab Group, Ames, Iowa

Summer 2015- May 2019

- Worked with postdocs and graduate students in collecting physiological data and soil sampling to investigate the viability of *Miscanthus x giganteus* as a biomass crop for use in producing renewable energy

**Field Intern** – Ulu Mau Puanui, Big Island, HI

Summer 2018

- Acquired cross-cultural awareness of Hawaiian agricultural systems, soil sampled on tropical soils, planted and pruned 15+ trees, maintained sugar cane and sweet potatoes plots, and participated in community outreach workshops

## Leadership Experience:

**Teacher Assistant** – Department of Agronomy, Iowa State University

Fall 2019

- TA for 300 level course on soils and plant growth, held weekly office hours and helped grade exams and assignments in timely manner

**Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences Chapter** – Iowa State University

Fall 2015 – Spring 2020

- Served as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer during undergraduate career
- Created agendas, lead executive board and general membership meetings, planned fundraising events, collected member dues, communicated with and organized industrial speakers/recruiters for club meetings

**Undergraduate Mentor** – Science Bound – Iowa State University

Fall 2016- Spring 2019

- Mentor underrepresented and first-generation high school students to consider a degree in STEM
- Assisted Science Bound coordinators in logistics and supervision at student events for all DMPS high schools

**Lead IT Collective** – College of Agriculture & Life Sciences – Iowa State University

Fall 2017-Fall 2019

- Student collective that promotes diversity, inclusion, and intercultural competency through presentations
- Presentations provide space for faculty and staff to learn, unpack, and discuss topics of social justice

## Activities and Awards:

**Frederick Soil Microbiology Award** – Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

Fall 2021

- Travel scholarship awarded to student presenting on soil biology at ASA-CSA-SSSA

**Agronomy Graduate Student Club** – Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa

Fall 2020

- Served on the Seminar Committee which plans and coordinates Fall Seminar speaker events

**Science Bound Graduation Banquet Speaker** – Iowa State University

Spring 2019

- Invited student speaker for Science Bound Class of 2019 college graduates

**George Washington Carver Spirit of Innovation Award** – Diamond, Missouri

Fall 2017

- National award presented by George Washington Carver Birthplace Association

## Presentations:

**Reuniting Three Sisters Community Workshops** – Santee, NE

Fall 2021

- Presented on importance of soil health and DIY tests to NICC students and community

**ASA-CSSA-SSSA International Annual Meeting** – Virtual

Fall 2020 & 2021

- Created a pre-recorded oral presentation on biological seed treatments effect on maize growth
- Created a poster on biological seed treatments effect on plant and soil health

**Science Bound Saturday** – Iowa State University

Fall & Spring 2019, Fall 2021

- Developed and facilitated an hour workshop for 30 students on being a multicultural student in a predominantly white institution

- Presented an introduction to soil health and demonstrated soil health test to 20 students

**Professional Agricultural Workers Conference (PAWC) – Tuskegee, Alabama**

Fall 2018

- Presented a research poster on nitrogen resorption in leaching and senescing switchgrass (*panicum virgatum*)
- Attended workshops on the updated Farm Bill, social issues around southern US farming, and various research presentations

**Iowa State Conference on Race and Ethnicity - Iowa State University**

Spring 2018

- Co - developed and presented on the complexity of the relationship between U.S. based Latinx communities and agriculture specific to access, health, culture

**Languages and Skills:**

- Fluent speaking in Spanish
- R Studio
- Microsoft office

**References:**

Theresa Cooper, PhD  
 Assistant Dean for Diversity  
 Iowa State University  
 College of Agriculture and Life Sciences  
 Email: [tncooper@iastate.edu](mailto:tncooper@iastate.edu)

Elizabeth Martinez-Podolsky  
 Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
 University of Minnesota  
 College of Veterinary Medicine  
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 Iowa State University  
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