Program Description

Mission
The Noble Academy advances the mission of the Noble Foundation by leading the institution’s student educational and outreach programs.

Vision
The Noble Academy will be a leader in delivering agriculture educational programs spanning from the lab to the field. The Noble Academy will improve science and agriculture education in the classroom and raise the awareness of the role and importance of agriculture in society.

Purpose
The purpose of Noble Academy is to directly engage its student- and instructor-audiences to:

- improve such audience’s knowledge of agriculture and its importance to society;
- share the need for research to advance agriculture; and
- communicate the range of career opportunities in agriculture and agriculture-related research.

We recognize that today’s students are tomorrow’s decision makers, consumers, agricultural producers, scientists and policymakers.

Services
The Noble Academy is a centralized outreach and educational function dedicated to delivering agricultural/science-based educational programs to student-audiences. Delivery may occur through on-campus and place-based programs as well as online resources.

The Noble Academy also serves as an entry-way for external parties seeking to participate or collaborate with the Noble Foundation’s outreach programs.

The Noble Academy also serves as a resource for Noble Foundation programs—whether agricultural-based or science-based—seeking to incorporate an educational or outreach element into their programs by aiding in content development, delivery to new or existing audiences or identifying partner agencies or other institutions.

The Noble Academy also assists its partner organizations, for example, schools and agricultural organizations, achieve their educational and/or outreach goals.

Audiences
The Noble Academy will have opportunities to engage a wide variety of student- and instructor-audiences, including:

- Elementary (grade 5)
- Middle school (grades 6-8)
- High school (grades 9-12)

December 2012
A conscious choice was made to target students in late-elementary and middle school. This target was chosen because middle school is the starting point for many students to explore industries and occupations associated with food, fiber and natural resources and are often the initial point of contact for students who have an interest in the agricultural industry (Rayfield and Croom, *J. Ag. Ed.*, 2010). Initially, classroom involvement will concentrate on the Carter County area.

**Objectives/Messages**

Through its programs, the Noble Academy will:

- Enhance science and agriculture education (beginning in Carter County)
- Increase awareness of the importance of agriculture
  - Training and practical tools
  - Land stewardship
  - Sustainability
  - Challenges facing agriculture
- Promote the role of science in agriculture
- Introduce career and opportunity diversity
- Serve as a resource for Noble Foundation faculty

**Partners, Facilitators and Contributors**

The Noble Academy will develop and maintain relationships with partners, facilitators and contributors. These relationships will be important in developing quality educational program content, establishing and maintaining credibility and extending the reach of Noble Academy.

**Contact Information**

For additional information or to participate in Noble Academy programs, contact Frank Hardin, Ph.D. at cfhardin@noble.org or 580.224.6215.