

Dear Members of the Maize Genetics Community,

We would like to provide a status update on the formal incorporation of the Maize Genetics community as a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Based on feedback from the 2019 Community Session during the Maize Genetics Conference, a committee reviewed options for formalizing the structure of the maize genetics community. In August, we held an open comment period on the various options. Thank you to everybody who shared your thoughts. **Based on the community feedback, the Maize Genetics Executive Committee (MGEC) voted to establish a 501c3.** In doing this, the Maize Genetics Executive Committee (MGEC) is no longer active, marking the end of one era and the start of a new one for the community. Thanks to all who have served on the MGEC over the years.

On September 10th, 2019 Natalia de Leon officially established the **Maize Genetics Cooperation** by signing legal documents with a corn-shaped pen!



We are now partnering with The Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies ([ACSESS](#)), an organization that provides administrative and management support to many scientific non-profits including the Soil Science Society of America, The American Society of Agronomy, and The Crop Science Society of America.

So far, we have completed the following;

1. **Appointed an interim Board of Directors (BOD)** responsible for leading the community until the next round of elections in 2020. The 2019 MGEC members appointed Natalia de Leon (President), Ruth Wagner (Vice President & Communications), Shawn Kaeppler (Secretary), and David Braun (Treasurer) to the

interim BOD. This group will consult with the MGEC and community as needed throughout the transition.

2. The BOD **established the Maize Genetics Conference Steering Committee (MGCSC)** as an official committee. The MGCSC will continue to conduct business as usual in planning our upcoming 2020 conference.
3. We set up a **Twitter account (@CoopMaize)** to share progress and decisions as well as other relevant community news. We will continue to post detailed information at MaizeGDB.
4. We have **drafted and are reviewing the Maize Genetics Cooperation bylaws** for membership, establishing the BOD, BOD decision-making, and other matters.

We look forward to sharing progress over the coming weeks and months!

Kind Regards,

The Maize Genetics Cooperation Interim Board of Directors
David Braun, Natalia de Leon, Shawn Kaeppler, & Ruth Wagner