Cooperative Extension & 4-H: Making a Difference in the Lives of Minority and Underserved Youth

Cathy M. Sutphin, PhD
Associate Director: Youth, Families, & Health
Virginia Cooperative Extension

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University
“It Takes a Village …”
Virginia Cooperative Extension Strengths

- Virginia Tech & Virginia State Universities
- Community Based Positive Youth Development
- Comprehensive Agricultural Research, Expertise, and Educational Programs
- Volunteer Engagement
- Building Partnerships and Collaborations to Address Community Needs
4-H Provides Programs and Structure to Excite, Engage, and Retain Minority and Underserved Youth
Strengthen Faculty, Staff, & Volunteers in Knowledge and Commitment to Diversity & Inclusion

- CALS Diversity Council
- VCE Diversity Fellows
- Coming Together For Racial Understanding
- Teen Summit
Develop Strategic Partnerships & Collaborations to Reach Minority and Underserved Youth with Unique Agriculture and Natural Resource Experiences

• University Partnerships and Collaborations
• External Partnerships and Collaborations
University Partnerships & Collaborations

- VT College Access Collaborative
- Center for Educational Networks & Impacts
- Undergraduate Admissions
- VT Engage
- Academy of Experiential Learning
VT College Access Collaborative & VCE Partnership Initiatives

- Junior MANRRS Leadership Institute
- Junior MANRRS Chapter Development
- Living Career Fairs
- STEM Efforts for Minorities, Underserved, & First Generation College Students
- Professional Development for Teachers
- Community Support Systems
External Partnerships & Collaborations

- Public Schools
- Community Colleges
- Virginia Department of Education
- Edufuturo
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Together We Grow
- Farm Bureau
- Virginia Agribusiness Council
- Industry and Producers
Partnerships & Collaborations

• Increase Opportunities for Youth
• Increase Youth Retention
• Increase Funding
• Increase Visibility
• Increase Partnership Development Opportunities