

# THE CULTIVATED CONNECTION

April 2024 | Virginia Tech CALS



*"Working with CALS at Virginia Tech has been instrumental in helping me to elevate my practice. My students design engineering solutions to modern agricultural issues, and the ability to draw on both the research and expertise at Virginia Tech has been powerful as both inspirations for design ideas and inspiration for my students to envision themselves in agricultural engineering fields."*

## Sowing Success Teacher Spotlight

Chris Kniesly is a high school agricultural engineering and environmental science teacher in Thomas Alva Edison High School's Global STEM Challenges Program in Fairfax County, Virginia. He participated in the Summer 2022 Agricultural Literacy Professional Development for Secondary Teachers. Mr. Kniesly brought his students to visit the VT College of Ag and Life Sciences during the fall semester of 2023. His students were able to tour VT CALS and engage with CALS faculty and graduate students through hands-on laboratories. (Photos below)

## CALS Currents: What's happening in VT CALS?

We are recruiting for our Summer 2024 Professional Development Program for Secondary Teachers! Do you know someone that may be interested? Please [Sign-Up Here!](#)



### Engaging Secondary Teachers in CALS Research for Agricultural Literacy

**June 17-21, 2024** Receive a class set of lab materials and **\$1200** stipend upon completion of required lesson plans.  
**Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA**

**\*\*Train transportation to VT can be provided at no cost!\*\***



This USDA funded program seeks to develop secondary teachers ability to promote agricultural and life sciences curriculum in their classrooms.

By participating the program teachers will be engaged in laboratory based experiences covering a few of the following topics.

- Bee's Wax Lip Balm
- Gummy Bear Chemistry and Physics
- Food Sciences
- Animal Sciences



For more information contact  
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[HTTPS://RB.GY/WRTJKG](https://rb.gy/wrtjkg)



**USDA** National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ready, Set, Grow!



Here is a free resource that can be utilized in your classroom:  
[Cyberbiosecurity Student Version](#)  
[Cyberbiosecurity Teacher Version](#)

## Contact Us

We'd love to hear from you! If you have questions about our programs or opportunities to engage with CALS please reach out to **Dr. Donna Westfall-Rudd** at [mooredm@vt.edu](mailto:mooredm@vt.edu) or **William Taylor** at [wataylorjr@vt.edu](mailto:wataylorjr@vt.edu)