



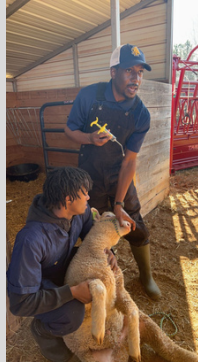
THE CULTIVATED CONNECTION



December 2024 | Virginia Tech CALS

Graduate Student Spotlight

Highlighting our graduate students that have assisted in the facilitation and coordination of the Engaging Secondary Teachers in CALS Research for Agricultural Literacy.



William Taylor

ALCE PhD Student

Tell us about yourself and your background:

I am originally from Durham, N.C. I attended North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University for my Bachelor's and Master's degrees. I am a former veterinary technician and a former middle and high school agriculture teacher.

Why did you choose to work with the Professional Development in Agricultural Literacy (PDAL) Program?:

I chose to work with the Ag Literacy program because of my passion for education and spreading awareness to agriculture teachers and students in underrepresented communities.

What is one interesting thing about you that people should know?:

I love airplanes and am a licensed pilot!

CALS CURRENTS

What's happening in VT CALS?

Graduate Student Outreach

Our lovely CALS Graduate students are available and accessible to visit your classroom, help with lessons, and more!

Interested?

Reach out via email to Nia McLean at mnia@vt.edu

The Summer 2025 Professional Development for Ag Literacy!

Virginia Tech CALS will host its 4th PDAL Summer program for secondary teachers in the summer 2025 in a **brand new location**:

The **Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center** in **Hampton, Virginia!**

Stay tuned for the call for new applicants in our upcoming newsletters!

Ready, Set, Grow!



Here is a free resource that can be utilized in your classroom:

[Protecting Our Watersheds](#)

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY, PLEASE SCHEDULE YOUR FINAL INTERVIEW ASAP! THIS WILL HELP US TO IMPROVE THE PROGRAM FOR FUTURE PARTICIPANTS**
- 2) TURN IN YOUR 3 LESSON PLANS ASAP! ONCE THESE ARE TURNED IN YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR STIPEND.**

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 or **Nia McLean** at mnia@vt.edu