



THE CULTIVATED CONNECTION



October 2024 | Virginia Tech CALS

Tell us about yourself and your background:

"I am Mary Oluwaseun Olumide-Oyaniyi. I am originally from Nigeria. My educational background is in Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology. Before coming to Virginia Tech, I was a high school teacher, a university lecturer, and an agricultural extension specialist focusing on youths and women in agriculture to build upon and develop their effort, skill, and knowledge to mitigate the impacts of climate change and improve food security.

Why did you choose to attend Virginia Tech for Graduate School?:

"A desire to broaden my knowledge and skills, coupled with an enthusiasm to identify ways in which agricultural and extension education can instigate an increase in agricultural productivity amidst the effects of climate change and simultaneously create a sustainable environment, motivated me to pursue a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD.) in Agricultural and Extension Education from Virginia Tech."

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

"I am a seamstress/fashion designer, I design and sew clothing."

Graduate Student Spotlight

Mary Olumide-Oyaniyi



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

CALS Currents: What's happening in VT CALS?

We are planning 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. If you know a fellow teacher that may be interested in joining us for an engaging and impactful experience please be on the lookout for the call for new applicants in our newsletters.

We have an exciting announcement about the 2025 program so please stay tuned!!!



ACTION ITEMS



1) 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.



Ready, Set, Grow!



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

Understanding and Developing Agribusiness

See You Soon

Mr. Chris Kniesly will be bringing his 2nd group of students to visit Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for another exciting, engaging, and impactful visit. YOU COULD BE NEXT!!! Please reach out and schedule a visit to our beautiful campus with your middle or high school students where they will gain hands-on experience in agriculture.



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 or **William Taylor** at wataylorjr@vt.edu