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

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Virginia Cooperative Extension



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Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

[www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu)

# “It Takes a Village ...”



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# 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



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# 4-H Provides Programs and Structure to Excite, Engage, and Retain Minority and Underserved Youth



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# **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



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# University Partnerships & Collaborations

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



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# 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



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# External Partnerships & Collaborations

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



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# Partnerships & Collaborations

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



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