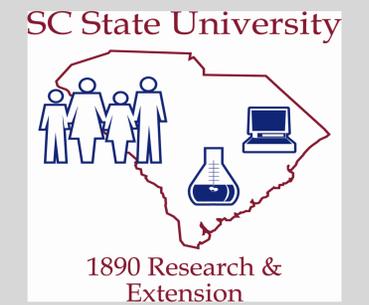




Combining Youth, Passion, and Resources for Environmental Science Studies (CYPRESS)

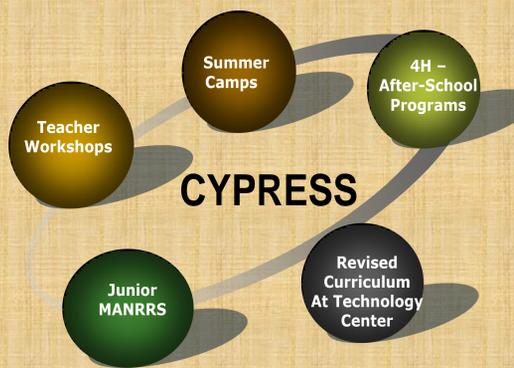


***Audrey McCrary-Quarles, PhD; Christopher Mathis, PhD; & Monica Fields**

Keena Wilson (Graduate Student) and Laura McGuire (Undergraduate South Carolina State University/1890 Research Programs)

Overview

CYPRESS is an integrated, three year project designed to expose and promote Natural Resource, Agriculture and Environmental Science careers to middle school students within Orangeburg, South Carolina. This project seeks to bridge the gap between middle and high school in providing ongoing support for students interested in pursuing agricultural careers in college.



Purpose

- To increase the cultural diversity of the food and agricultural professional work force;
- To attract and educate young underrepresented groups about Agriculture; and
- To reduce the label associated with Agricultural careers among minorities –“working on the farm”

Methodology

- Throughout the CYPRESS project, the team will conduct pre and post surveys with both middle and high school students to determine if the activities were influential with students enrolling in Ag courses at the Technology Center and /or pursuing Agriculture majors in college.
- In addition, the team will work closely with the guidance counselors at participating middle and high schools to identify and track the number of students interested in pursuing Agriculture careers.
- The middle school students will be tracked for three years to see how many actually enroll in Ag courses at the high school level.



CYPRESS' Goals

The focus of the CYPRESS project is to create a seamless pipeline from middle to high school for underrepresented youth to explore Agriculture careers and professions, and promote students to pursue Agriculture majors while in college. In addition, generate interest in natural resource, environmental science and agricultural career fields among diverse populations of middle/high school students and develop an informed public concerning food and agricultural sciences issues, such as science teachers, guidance counselors, and parents. Moreover, exposed students to a revised Ag curriculum, 4-H/Junior MANRRS After-school programs and summer camps to promote future agricultural careers that will increase the amount of professionals in the Ag workforce.

Methodology



Data Collection



Conducted Pre and Post Surveys

- Determine Effectiveness of Programs
 - Summer Camp / 4H / MANRRS
 - Revised Curriculum at Technology Center

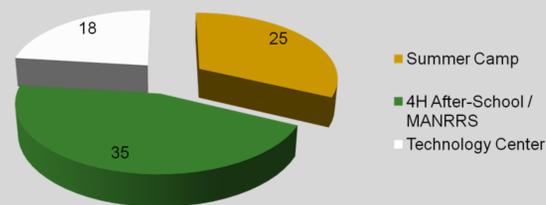
Identified and Tracked

- Middle School Students
 - Interested in Agriculture careers
- High School Students
 - Enrolled in Ag courses at Technology Center
 - Pursuing Ag majors in college

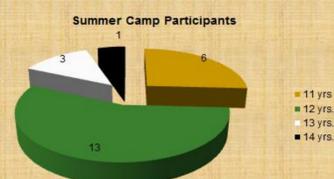
Parent Survey

- Perception of CYPRESS Summer Camp

Participants



Data Collection - cont



Data Collection - cont

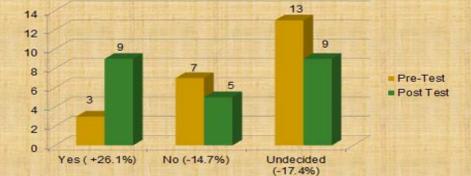


Acknowledgement

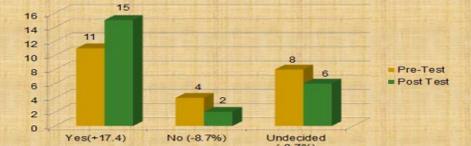
We like to acknowledge the United States Department of Agriculture, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) ~ 1890 Capacity Grant for their cooperation and assistance in providing the funding for this project; in addition to Orangeburg County Consolidated District #5, Howard and Clark Middle Schools, and OW-Technology Center; Felton Laboratory School and South Carolina State University & 1890 Research Programs.

Results

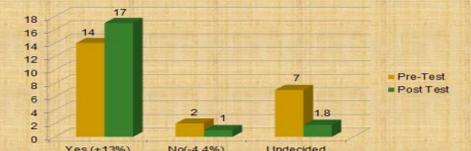
Pursuing Careers in Ag



Want to Know More About Ag



Aware of Ag Scholarships



Aware that Ag covers Environmental Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math



Summary

CYPRESS Project has been effective towards increasing awareness and interest among the middle school youths for Ag Careers. Also, CYPRESS project provides:

- Agriculture Awareness Project that targets minority youth
- Agriculture career exploration
- “Ag in the classroom” workshops for science teachers
- Food Production – from the farm to the table
- College preparation tips and scholarships
- Curriculum revision

