



NACTA

north american colleges and teachers of agriculture
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VirginiaTech *Invent the Future*® College of
Agriculture
and Life Sciences

Growing a Civically Engaged Curriculum: The Evolving Story of the Civic Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFS) Minor

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59th Annual NACTA Conference **June 25-29, 2013**
Crossing Disciplinary Boundaries Blacksburg, Virginia



- 1. Growing a Civically Engaged Curriculum: The Evolving Story of the Civic Agriculture and Food Systems Minor;** *S. Clark & K. Niewolny*
- 2. Companion Planting: The Reciprocity of Community-University Partnerships in Civic Agriculture and Food Systems Minor;** *J. Schwanke, R. Tombes, S. Walker & S. Clark*
- 3. Separating The Wheat From The Chaff: Negotiating Contested Terms In Agriculture Education** *J. Barney, P. Ziegler, S Hodges, C. Wood, T. Kuhar & J. Cricenti*
- 4. Cultivating Opportunity: Community Action Projects in the Civic Agriculture and Food Systems Minor CAPstone Course;** *S. Clark & J. Schwanke*
- 5. Assessing Civically Engaged Curriculum: Civic Agriculture & Food Systems Minor at VT** *J. Helms and S. Clark*
- 6. Crossing Disciplinary Boundaries: Exploring Current & Future Roles of Graduate Students as Knowledge Producers and Educators in Higher Education** *J. Helms, S. Misyak, & J. Cricenti*
- 7. Co-learning in a Graduate-Level Food Systems Course: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Course-Based Action Research;** *R. Kennedy, K. Niewolny, S. Ciamillo, P. D-Adamo-Damery, S. Jonson, L. MacAuley, Havva Savran Al-Haik & A. Trutko*
- 8. Mapping the Campus Food System: Assessing Consumer Awareness of VT Dining Services Garden at Kentland Farm;** *J. Cricenti, S. Clark, H. Scoggins & R. Harris*

Panel Discussion



Embodies a commitment to developing & strengthening an economically, environmentally, & socially sustainable agriculture & food systems through building community capacity, using local resources, & serving local markets & citizens.



ALS 2204 Introduction to Civic Agriculture
ALS 3404 Ecological Agriculture: Theory and Practice
ALS 4204 Concepts in Community Food Systems
ALS 4214 Capstone: Civic Agriculture and Food Systems





Food Security /Sovereignty

Students learn that both having access to enough food and having nutritional, culturally appropriate food both count.



Strong local economies

Students form partnerships with local growers participate in the growing of market gardens, CSA, hunger relief organizations.



Civic Engagement & Democratic participation

Students work/share dialogue in partnership with community stakeholders to set goals/objectives to design implement and evaluate projects.



Ecological Stewardship

*Projects preserve/enhance environmental quality;
promotes systems-oriented approach to agricultural
& natural resource management*



Healthy people/communities

Links people & communities with a healthy, accessible food system



Collaborative Teaching Experiential Learning

*Reciprocal learning about the real world;
Passing on the gift of knowledge*



Civic Agriculture
and Food Systems

VIRGINIA TECH



Dialogue-based in/out class discussion, fieldwork, etc.





Collaborative Teaching



Fieldwork – Community Engagement





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Companion Planting: The Reciprocity of Community-University Partnerships in the Civic Agriculture and Food Systems Minor



Jenny Schwanke

Hale-YMCA Community Garden



Rial Tombes

VA Tech Dining Services Garden



Sally & J. P. Walker

Glade Road Growing



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Our grow plan – the connection between partners and classroom



Groundwork – chose a community partner and start fieldwork.

Cultivation - Three semesters of building relationships, understanding community capitals & assessing needs

Harvest – Implementing the capstone project

Reseeding – leaving the project to be furthered by a new cohort of students









Photo Courtesy: Chelsea Graves and DSA Marketing

One individual's path from student to community partner



Dining
Services
Sustainability
Coordinator



STUDENT GROWTH

Hands on work



**Understanding of
personal capitals
cultivating a relation
with community
partner**



**Engaged participant
in community
development**

Mutually Beneficial Companion Planting – Growing Communities, Growing Students, Growing the University

