

William S. Schmidt Center

"Where Learning Takes Root"

Environmental Education, K-12

18501 Aquasco Road, Brandywine, MD 20613

Phone: 301-888-1185, Fax: 301-888-1236



Supervisor: Dr. Sylvester Conyers

Instructional Specialist: James Roberson

November 1, 2018

Excellence in Action Awards Committee
Advance CTE
8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 620
Silver Spring, MD 20910

It is with great pleasure that I recommend that Gwynn Park High School CASE-ANR Program to receive the Excellence in Action Award. As Supervisor of Environmental Education Programs in Prince George's County Public Schools, my staff and I have been intimately involved with the program's inception in 2013. The program has grown to be a model program that embraces many of the components of a 21st century CTE environmental education. Students are involved in hands on activities that promote critical thinking/problem solving, developing a link between learning both inside and outside the classroom, providing minority populations with opportunities that broaden their horizons for college and career possibilities, and development of critical leadership skills.

Gwynn Park High School educators have received intensive professional development over the years to deliver the four year program with fidelity. The curriculum embraces many of the tenants found in NGSS and STEM. Labs are an essential component of the curriculum resulting in student inquiry and investigation.

Over the years the CASE-ANR Program has restored a greenhouse that produces a variety of plants sold to the community as a fundraiser, construction of areas on campus where chickens and pigs are raised and eggs are also sold as a fundraiser. The program now has both an aquaponics setup where Koi and Tilapia are raised and students have constructed a hydroponics apparatus for growing vegetables.

Gwynn Park High School CASE-AFR Program has established an official Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter. FFA has provided students with experiences that allow students to develop premiere leadership skills, career pathways and opportunities to interact with large populations of white students from rural settings. Students have attended both state and national conventions. They serve as Delegates that review and change FFA bylaws and learn more about the challenges of food supply as it relates to population and participate in competitions such as Public Speaking. Several of the

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November 1, 2018
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Gwynn Park High School students have placed high in the Speaking Competition. It is important to note that the interaction between students builds lines of communication rather than walls of misunderstanding and lack of trust.

With the support of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), students at Gwynn Park High School actively participate in the Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS). The MANRRS Program also stresses leadership development, potential careers in the various aspects of agriculture and exposure to worldwide organizations that provide life changing experiences for students. Several Gwynn Park High School students entered the World Food Prize Competition. Winners earned a summer internship in countries around the world. For the first time in the history of the program, two students from the same high school, Gwynn Park High School CASE-AFR Program were selected in 2018! These two students were the first students in Maryland to receive the World Food Prize Borlaug-Ruan International Internship!

Student Learning opportunities extend into the summer for the CASE-ANR Program. Students take advantage and participate in the Agricultural Discovery Program sponsored by the USDA, VET-STEP program at Tuskegee University, as well as, summer internships at the Accokeek Foundation. Participants in all programs receive experiences that enhance their maturation as leaders who will play a significant role in the future of agriculture in the 21st century.

In closing, Eleanor Roosevelt was often quoted as saying "Better to light a candle than curse the darkness!". The CASE-ANR Program, in many ways, embodies that philosophy. I recommend, without reservation, that the CASE-ANR Program at Gwynn Park High School receives the Excellence in Action AWARD.

Sincerely,



Sylvester Conyers, Ed.D.
Supervisor of Environmental Programs
Prince George's County Public Schools
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MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.

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November 7, 2018

Excellence in Action Awards Committee
Advance CTE
8484 Georgia Avenue
Suite 620
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Awards Committee

SUBJECT Gwynn Park High School CASE Program

The Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) provides the basis for a highly rigorous science and technology based agricultural education experience. How this program of study is implemented in the classroom determines whether the student's experiences and achievements are just good or amazing.

The CASE Agriculture and Natural Resources program at Gwynn Park High School in Brandywine, Maryland is truly amazing. The students at Gwynn Park High School have achieved remarkable accomplishments academically, spiritually, physically, and mentally. Engaging in a subject that was never previously important to them has been transformational. The hands-on experiential and cross-curricular activities provide for enhanced learning with greater retention of the subjects being taught.

Under the guidance of several highly motivated, dedicated and inspirational educators and with the support of the school, parents, administrators and the community, the students have been introduced to extensive school-based and off campus trainings, leadership events, and community service experiences. Programs such as FFA, MANRRS, the World Food Prize, 4-H and others have help instill self-confidence, leadership skills, communication skills and the desire to pursue post-secondary education and trainings.

Our organization often uses the Gwynn Park CASE ANR program as an example for encouraging other school systems to pursue similar programs for their schools. Gwynn Park has earned every accolade and honor.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our organization's support for the Gwynn Park High School CASE Agriculture and Natural Resources program of study as a candidate for the prestigious Excellence in Action Award. Please contact me if you have questions regarding our working relationship with Gwynn Park. I can be reached at 410-939-9030 and gmayo@maefonline.com.

Sincerely,



George Mayo
Executive Director

"Promoting the understanding and appreciation of the importance of agriculture in everyone's daily lives"

Since 1989.



NATIONAL
FFA ORGANIZATION

November 7th 2018

Attn: Excellence in Action Award Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend the CASE – ANR Program at Gwynn Park High School in Maryland for Advance CTE's Excellence in Action Award.

During my time at National FFA, I have had numerous encounters with a plethora of dynamic agricultural education programs and FFA chapters. One of my favorite, because of proximity to our work in Washington, DC and also because of the good work they regularly do is the Gwynn Park agricultural education program. Their program is the epitome of excellence and the sheer definition of excellence in action. Gwynn Park does. And they do well.

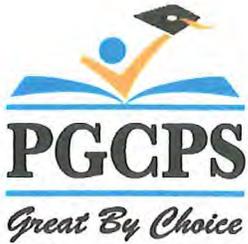
In the last month, two Gwynn Park agricultural education students were part of the 24 high-school students that were Borlaug-Ruan International interns. Through this program they represented Maryland across the globe while learning about issues relating to food and poverty at international research centers and non-governmental organizations. Later that same month, other students from the program educated urban museum goers in Washington, DC on agricultural commodities at the Smithsonian Museum of National History.

Additionally, students in the Gwynn Park High School program are exposed to all levels of opportunities from being a part of the USDA Ag Discovery Internship Program, Summer Youth Employment Program, FFA Agri-science Fairs, and the Maryland Youth Institute Program. By participating in leadership events like FFA speaking contests, MANNRS Fall Leadership Training, and working with middle school students Gwynn Park High School Program strives to build skills that will set them apart from their classmates. These opportunities ensure that each student has the capability to be successful in the field of their choosing and will be a step ahead of others when entering college. In all instances, students took what they learned and applied it to the world around them to create excellence for themselves, their schools, communities, and the world. They will continue to contribute in this way during their time as students - and better yet, even after they graduate - which is why career and technical education exists.

Without a doubt, I confidently recommend the CASE – ANR Program at Gwynn Park High School for Advance CTE's Action Award. I know this program is deserving of this honor and will continue to be a mark of excellence. Please feel free to contact me at (580)334-2410 should you like to discuss further.

Sincerely

Riley W. Pagett
rpagett@ffa.org
(580)334-2410



GWYNN PARK HIGH SCHOOL
Home of the Yellow Jackets
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~ Office: (301) 372-0140 ~ Fax: (301) 372-0149



Dr. Melissa McGuire
Principal

Mr. Adriel Wheeler
Assistant Principal

Ms. Cassandra Edwards
Assistant Principal

Mr. Eric Harrison
Assistant Principal

Ms. Jenice Pellam
Assistant Principal

November 8, 2018

Dear Excellence in Action Award Committee:

On behalf of Gwynn Park High School, I would like to submit a letter of support for the Excellence in Action Award. Gwynn Park High School has the Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Program. It's a part of Prince George's County Public Schools Career and Technical Education programs. It has been my pleasure to observe the outstanding scholarly research and environmental literacy of our students through the program. I have had an opportunity to observe students in our outdoor classroom, greenhouse and regional environmental locations.

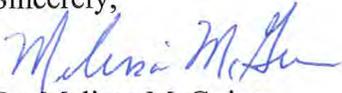
The CASE curriculum is a scaffolding curriculum that starts out with the basic of agriculture and slowly builds up the knowledge base and competencies so that by the senior year students are running independent projects. Agriculture programs are part of a three ring model that includes the classroom, supervised agriculture experience, and a student leadership organization. Our students over the course of a year visit both of our land grant partner colleges on field trips. Many of the students apply and are selected to attend the prestigious 2 week summer USDA AgDiscovery programs at colleges across the country to learn about possible career areas.

Furthermore, the CASE program has established partnerships with state land grant universities developing real world opportunities for our students in experiential learning. UMES sponsored an initial poultry operation. In addition, UMES has sponsored our students to attend local, state and national activities. Activities have included but not limited to, summits such as visits to the White House, competitions at the National MANRRS level to name a few. The University of Maryland, College Park has assisted with guest speakers and coaches for contest teams over the years as well as been there chair of our Program Advisory board. Our school has worked closely with the county environmental center, national and regional parks as the students have grown native plants in order to rehabilitate the local ecosystem. Various partnerships have helped students be placed in numerous summer internships through the Prince George's County Summer Youth Employment program. Nationally our students have also been afforded many opportunities to represent and advocate for agriculture with the National FFA whether it be at the Smithsonian Food Festival or National Ag Day. The local Farm Bureau and Soil Conservation district has hosted the chapter as keynote speakers at their banquets.

The industry for field of Agriculture has roughly 60,000 jobs available each year. Currently there are about 20,000 students graduating from post-secondary schools to help fill those openings. There is very strong push to level the playing field by bringing diversity into major agriculture companies. Our program has been instrumental pairing student with the numerous leadership roles in order to develop a pipeline of students fully prepared for the various employment opportunities in the field of Agriculture. Many students have developed mentorships' with partners through MANRRS (many from the USDA) and other specialty areas.

Again, it is with great pleasure that I am able to provide a support letter for the Excellence in Action Award. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa McGuire". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

Dr. Melissa McGuire

Principal

melissa.mcguire@pgcps.org



Gwynn Park Environmental Studies students attend the World Food Prize/Global Youth Institute

October 18-22, 2017
In Des Moines, Iowa





Jailynn Britt, Tyler Reid
and Alisa Evans
started their journey to
solve world hunger at
the annual Global
Youth Institute

Educational Needs in Nicaragua



Writing about education allowed me to see the importance of receiving a strong knowledge base and how it has negatively affected the current hunger issues in Nicaragua.

Cardiovascular crises in poland.

Poland is food secure.
They lack nutrient rich
foods such as fresh
vegetables and fruits
which are necessary for
reducing cardiovascular
issues.



Human Rights in Nigeria



My research paper was on human rights, specifically women's rights in Nigeria in the field of agriculture. Women do not have as many rights as men, they do not have the same amount of access to resources that men do. This has affected hunger in Nigeria.

Field Experience: Ending Hunger. Enriching Lives

GYI students assisted in food preparation for those less fortunate.





Learning about permeability of soil



Traditional conventional till versus a no till field

Field Experience: Soil conservation





Environmental Studies Pathway

March 2018 in Review



National Ag Day

Students leaders from multiple youth organizations came together on March 20 to celebrate agriculture.



Xavier Hawkins and Alisa Evans represented Junior MANRRS
Eleaser Garrett, Tyler Reid, Taylor Thomas and Jailynn Britt represented FFA for the state
Our students from Gwynn Park High school were the only high school students at this collegiate national event which featured officials such as Mike Pence and Dr. Sonny Perdue

Greenhouse Production



Students began in February planting seeds for the spring plant sale.

The school offers a variety of vegetables, flowers, and herbs which are available for purchase.

Saving the Environment



Over the last few months we have partnered with the cafeteria and culinary friends to reduce the amount of food waste that goes into the local landfill from our high school. Each week we pick up a package that contains bread and vegetables.

A portion goes to Accokeek Foundation and is made into fermented feed. Another portion goes to our chickens and the last part goes to the composting unit near our classroom.



Developing Future Leaders



Gwynn Park hosted Region 3 Leadership Development contest on Saturday March 3rd.

Students participated in prepared public speaking, extemporaneous speaking and job skills. All students have qualified to go on to the state level in June.

Developing Future Scientists



Students participated in hands on experiences during the National Junior MANNRS symposium workshops at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro over spring break.

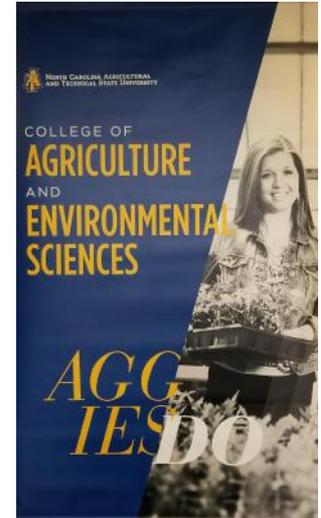


National MANRRS



Twelve different states sent young leaders to Junior MANRRS.

Students worked on soft skills as they met professionals from across the nation.



Junior MANRRS Award Winners



Nine awards available at the National level for Junior MANRRS.

Gwynn Park brought home five.

Essay

Tyler Reid - 2nd

Taylor Thomas - 3rd



Impromptu Speaking

Jailynn Britt - 3rd

Prepared Speaking

Alisa Evans - 1st

Kaila Asante - 2nd



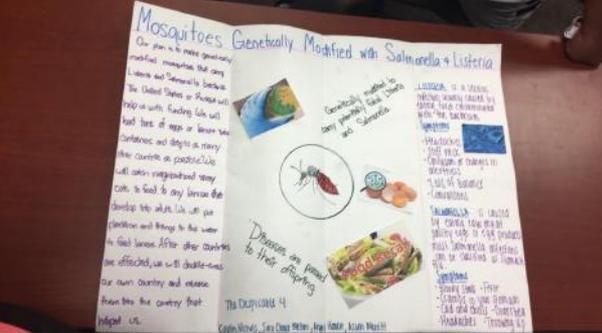
2018
National and International
Experiential Summer
Internships



National Internships - USA AG Discovery Participants

Xavier Nance	UMES
Nia Calhoun	FAMU
Taylor Thomas	NC STATE
Mya Crestwell	DSU
Kaila Asante	DSU
Alisa Evans	DSU*
Jasmine Mann	Tuskegee*
Xavier Hawkins	VSU
Kaylin Nichols	Alcorn

National Internships pt.1



National Internships pt.2



Borlaug-Ruan International Internships

Alisa Evans

Borlaug-Ruan Internship: International Livestock in Kenya



Tyler Reid
Borlaug-Ruan Internship: World Vegetable Center in Taiwan

