A professional society that focuses on the scholarship of teaching and learning agriculture and related disciplines at the postsecondary level. Members of NACTA are from two-year and four-year colleges, public and private.

Formed in 1955, the mission of NACTA is to:

- Provide for all post-secondary teachers of agriculture a forum for discussion of questions and issues relating to the professional advancement of agricultural discussion.
- Seek improvement in the post-secondary teaching of agriculture through examination and discussion of courses and curricula, teaching and testing techniques, facilities and materials.
- Encourage, promote and reward instructional excellence in agriculture and the research supporting this instruction.
Virginia Tech Presentations at NACTA 2022

- "Identifying Opportunities for Multi-Species Contact in Virginia Tech’s Animal and Poultry Sciences Curriculum" by Sara Cloft and Cindy Wood
- "Agriculture faculty to student gender reflection" by Andrew Meeks, Deelan Jalil, and Pete Ziegler
- "Virginia Tech Food Access and Wellbeing" by Lana Petrie, Jessica Agnew, Ralph Hall, Rick Rudd
- "Raising Awareness of Food Security through Service Learning" by Kellie Claffin and Lana Petrie
- "Interdisciplinary Approach to Experiential Learning in Agriculture Through Workforce Development" by Kellie Johnson, Tiffany Drape, Joseph Oakes, Joseph, Simpson, Donna Westfall-Rudd, Susan Duncan
- "Initiating the Rural Cyberbiosecurity Workforce Pipeline Through Empowering Agricultural Educators and Supporting Middle School Girls the Rural Cyberbiosecurity Workforce Pipeline Through Empowering Agricultural Educators and Supporting Middle School" by David Smlnak, Hannah Scherer, Erika Bonnett, Tiffany Drape, Sue Duncan, Karen Vines, Donna Westfall-Rudd, and Joseph Simpson
- "Increasing Diversity in Cooperative Extension by Improving Diversity in the Pipeline Through Cross-institutional Course Offerings" by Carolyn McGraw, Karen Vines, Marcus Comer, Maggie Daly, Jama S. Coartney, and Nicole Nunoo
- "Illuminating Agricultural Extension and Education Career Opportunities for STEM and Liberal Arts Undergraduate Students" by Quintin Robinson, Rick Rudd, John Ricketts, CL Bohannon, and Donna Westfall-Rudd
- "Pathways to General Education: An Integrated Application in a Hybrid Agricultural Communication class" by Nicole I. Nunoo, Tracy Rutherford, and Eliza Thurman
- "An assessment of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Internship Program" by Lisa Ellis McCormick and Karen Vines

This 2022 NACTA poster describes the importance of durable / employability skills to better prepare students to enter the workforce.

- Previous research provides examples of the types of durable skill development employers would like to see.
- Virginia and workforce readiness issues/opportunities align with national findings.
- Inter-related connections can help to expand networks and build lasting relationships among stakeholders.
Jama’s take-aways from NACTA 2022

While technology and teaching with technology received extensive coverage, Virginia Tech was the only school presenting on issues and curricula that included cyberbiosecurity (Go Hokies!)

Careers related to cyberbiosecurity and its connections/importance to agriculture are not clearly articulated—or possibly understood—by academic/educational entities.

There are opportunities to partner with other researchers, such as NC State University and U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA), in creating connections between cyberbiosecurity and careers in agriculture (see poster).
Initiating the Rural Cyberbiosecurity Workforce Pipeline Through Empowering Agricultural Educators & Supporting Middle School Girls

- **Goals**
  - To increase female representation in Ag STEM education
  - Cultivate increased female participation in agriculture
- Brings together three stakeholder groups to develop Open Educational Resources to facilitate those goals.

Visual Modeling as a Pedagogical Strategy in Nutritional Physiology as a Course

- **Presented by Ciana Bowhay, Tennessee Tech**
- **Reasoning:** 1) model for meaningful learning, 2) construct mental models, order, and integrate information, and 3) visible learning
- Creates a visual for learning with steps
- Walk through with class, independent practice, and writing processes
- **Findings:**
  - Peer Review
  - Long process
  - Created helpful study aids
  - Rubric/Clearer instructions needed
- **Conclusion:**
  - Created confidence, ability to integrate, and apply information
  - Approves understanding when the combination of visual and verbal information processing
An Assessment of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Internship Program

- Evaluation Project 2019
- Supervisor Focus Groups and Intern Survey
- Supervisor FG Findings:
  - SWOT
  - Orientation
  - Funding
  - VCE Administration
- Intern Survey
  - Selection of internship
  - Orientation
  - VCE Website and VCE Resources
  - Internship Project Completion

This presentation focused on utilizing VT’s Pathways Curriculum/rubric for course content development and for achieving practical student learning outcomes.

Conclusion:
For group assignments, I noticed that the assessment rubric took away the collective-learning outcomes that occur during group projects.
Qualitative research boot camp: How to design, implement, and analyze data to successfully conduct SoTL research

BY: Dr. Mary Rodriguez & Dr. Grady Roberts

- SoTL: Scholarship of Teaching & Learning
- Conducting qualitative research
- Coding and Analyzing Qualitative Data (Determining rigor in qual research)
- Reporting Qualitative data
- Software and Apps for transcribing qualitative interviews (Otter.ai app)

This experiential learning course was designed for training and developing students for the cyber biosecurity workforce.

Objectives:
- Build and develop a functioning experiential learning course
- Develop sustainable relationships with industry partners
- Engage higher education to simulate
- Promote collaboration amongst data sciences/food and ag students
MAY THE RESOURCES BE EVER IN YOUR FAVOR!

Scenario Five: Zero resources

You're the new agriculture professor but you are taking a position that is already established. You're enthusiastic and you want to grow the program but you don't have a dedicated resource (i.e. you don't have a farm or greenhouse or engineering took over the former welding lab) so you are going to establish something.

Phase 1: Let’s Brainstorm
- Come up with three learning ideas that address the scenario proposed and the constraint given

Phase 2: Work it Out! We are getting those ideas in shape.
- Create a physical outlining
  - The goal
  - Timeline (1,3,5, year)
  - General budget for implementation
  - Level of student involvement
  - Metrics of success for the idea

Phase 3: Ready to Gamble?
- Develop an assessment plan (Lesson plan or rubric)

Questions for Discussion

- What about NACTA is appealing to you?
- What was the highlight of the conference?
- What idea or insight did you take from the conference that may be of value to CAIA faculty or students?
- How do you plan to apply insights gained from the conference?
- What do you hope to see presented at next year’s NACTA conference?
NACTA 2023

June 19-23 in Las Cruces, NM
www.NACTAconference.org

Abstracts typically due February 1st

NACTA Journal

Dr. Tracy Rutherford,
Editor in Chief

Interested in submitting a manuscript?
Go to www.NACTAJournal.org
CAIA Graduate Student Affiliate Group

- Professional Student Organization
  - Networking
  - Skill development
  - Student Exposure
- Opportunities to participate in CAIA functions
  - CAIA Big Event
  - AI Conference in Auburn
  - Ag Expo
- Links
  - https://caia.cals.vt.edu/education/caia-graduate-student-affiliate-group.html
  - https://gobblerconnect.vt.edu/organization/caia-gsa

CAIA Fall Kickoff Event
September 7, 2022 | 12:00-2:00pm
WHERE: Hyatt Place, Blacksburg

- Join us for CAIA updates, lunch, and social gathering with your fellow CAIA affiliate members.
- **Please register by August 24.** Scan the following QR Code or click on the link on our CAIA website under ‘announcements’: https://caia.cals.vt.edu/

Are you interested in becoming a CAIA affiliate faculty or graduate student affiliate?

Sign up by visiting our website listed on the left or click the direct links in the chat.