

# WHY VCE ARLINGTON-**ALEXANDRIA?**

VCE ARLINGTON-ALEXANDRIA PROVIDES RESEARCH-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE RESIDENTS' HEALTH, EFFECTIVE FOOD SYSTEMS, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.

#### IMPROVE FOOD PRODUCTION SKILLS

VCE Master Gardeners (EMG) educate residents on gardening best practices to support urban agriculture goals. EMGs teach pest and fertilizer management to decrease impacts from storm water runoff on the watershed, and teach tree and shrub care to improve county tree canopy coverage.

# TEACH LIFE SKILLS AND GET YOUTH OUTSIDE

4-H teaches environmental education, healthy living, leadership, career preparation and more to Arlington's youth, with a special emphasis on supporting our Title I students.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY EDUCATION

VCE offers free education and training to residents of Arlington County and City of Alexandria on how to budget for utility bills. Energy Masters focuses on providing access to energy efficiency education and knowledge to residents in affordable housing units.

# TEACHING LIMITED-RESOURCE FAMILIES HOW TO MAKE HEALTHIER FOOD CHOICES

The Family Nutrition Program's focus is on basic nutrition, physical activity, safe food handling, and thrifty food shopping. The FNP program transitioned to a virtual format, providing nutrition information that helped create healthier eating patterns and provided tools for being active while at home.

## **PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

Educate residents on best practices to protect our natural resources, promote county urban forestry and natural resource master plan goals. Training Master Naturalist and Master Gardener educators to reduce pesticide use, manage invasive species, and increase use of native plants.





land-grant universities to City of Alexandria and Arlington County 3308 S Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22206 703-228-6400 arlington.ext.vt.edu IIO8 Jefferson Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 [703-746-5546 | alexandria.ext.vt.edu













# WHY VCE ARLINGTON COUNTY & CITY OF ALEXANDRIA?

VCE ARLINGTON & ALEXANDRIA PROVIDE RESEARCH-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE RESIDENTS' HEALTH, EFFECTIVE FOOD SYSTEMS, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.

#### IMPROVE FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE

- > 100% increase of trained retail food safety participants, with 86% becoming certified food protection managers.
- > Since 2005, over 93,000 students have participated in our Embryology Program.
- > Over 4,200 participants in food literacy education programs in prior year.





# YOUTH LEARNING LEADERSHIP, CITIZENSHIP, AND LIFE SKILLS

- > Reaching over 400 youth annually with volunteer-led life skills instruction.
- > Providing no-cost clubs at over 16 partner sites, including all 8 Title I APS Schools.

# ENHANCE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

- > Between 2011 & 2021, volunteers have served over 1,000 apartment units in Arlington County & the City of Alexandria.
- > These changes have avoided about 596,400 lbs. of carbon dioxide emissions.
- $\succ$  Each apartment unit saved an estimated \$162 per year on their utility bills.

# ENHANCING HEALTH AND WELLNESS OUTCOMES

> Delivered virtual nutrition education to 100+ families in Alexandria City and Arlington County.

>In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, FNP has reached nearly 247 students via our preschool program (LEAP), while training 16 Head Start Teachers.

# PROMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

 From May 2020-2021, EMGs taught over 25 classes on sustainable landscaping & best management practices reaching over 4,000 participants.
From May 2020-2021, EMGs answered over 1,650 questions at our Help Desk assisting residents directly with their specific problems.

#### Virginia Cooperative VCE Arlington & Alexandria

Bringing the knowledge of the Virginia land-grant Universities to Alexandria City & Arlington County

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