



Animal Science Discovery (ANSCId): An experiential learning and career pipeline between LAGCC and Rutgers



Project Summary

LaGuardia Community College (LAGCC), the first and only agriculture-focused two-year college in NYC, is addressing the lack of access to Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences (FANH) careers in urban communities through the Animal Science Discovery (ANSCId) program. Located in the urban area of Queens, LAGCC is uniquely positioned to prepare students for the FANH workforce. ANSCId creates a structured, scholarship-supported pathway from NYC high schools to LAGCC and on to Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, offering experiential learning, peer mentorship, and career development. This student-centered initiative is designed to boost retention, graduation, and transfer rates, while expanding access to USDA career opportunities.

**+339% Increase in
Animal Science Major
Enrollment**

46 Internships

+26% Increase in GPA



"I loved that we didn't just learn about animal care in a classroom; we actually got to work in the pens and practice safe, professional handling techniques under expert supervision."

LAGCC USDA NextGen Intern - Summer at Rutgers

**Funding
\$4,500,000**

Objectives

- **Pathways to Animal Science Careers:** Connecting high school students to LAGCC and Rutgers through articulated transfer agreements, high-tech media outreach, and USDA- and Animal Science-focused events on both campuses.
- **Animal Science Summer Residency & Research Program:** Creating opportunities for urban commuter-students to experience a residential campus, in the form of an internship-based, credit-bearing residency.
- **LAGCC-Rutgers Transfer Scholarship:** Establishing a fully funded transfer scholarship for LAGCC students interested in pursuing a career in Animal Science with internships at USDA.
- **Animal Science Peer mentorship program:** Fostering social, emotional, academic and career readiness through peer mentors, student ambassadors, tutors, and graduate student support at LAGCC and Rutgers.



**ANSCId
Resources**



ANSCId Overview

Pathways to Animal Science Careers

- **Events & Attendees:** Over 2,209 participants attended 30 events in NYC and Rutgers from June 2025 to May 2026.
- **Internships & Stipends:** 46 students from LAGCC and Rutgers completed USDA-supported internships and experiential learning programs. A total of 12 students from LAGCC and Rutgers participated in the Comparative Medicine Resources (CMR) internship at Rutgers.
- **Tuition Assistance:** 4 students received the USDA NextGen partial (25%) tuition assistance award.
- **Transfers to Four-Year Colleges:** 1 student graduated from Rutgers in Spring 2026. Another 3 students were selected for fully funded LAGCC-Rutgers transfer scholarships for Fall 2025. Additionally, 5 students have transferred to Cornell Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS).
- **SELP & SURE Completion:** 25 students completed the Summer 2025 programs, which included 19 SELP students and 6 SURE students.
- **Research & Presentations:** 124 students (14 NextGen scholars and 110 additional students) conducted original Course-Based Undergraduate Research. All 14 NextGen scholars presented their findings at the LaGuardia Undergraduate Research Conference.

Overall Impact: The LAGCC-Rutgers pipeline continues to expand access to USDA career pathways for urban students. Environmental Science enrollment reached 250 students, a 339% increase since Fall 2022. Forty-six students gained hands-on skills in dairy operations, regenerative farming, clinical animal care, and food systems research; 124 conducted authentic research within their coursework; and 30 regional events reached over 2,200 participants. Eight NextGen scholars and fully funded transfers to four-year agricultural programs directly address the national shortage of large animal and dairy veterinarians.

"Receiving this scholarship lifted a tremendous weight off my shoulders; without it, I wouldn't have been able to enroll in classes, but now I can focus entirely on studying and achieving my goal of graduation."

-LAGCC scholarship recipient



"This internship introduced me to the operational and management side of animal care programs. I learned that animal care is not only about working directly with animals, but also about maintaining an organized and compliant system that supports ethical research and animal welfare."

- LAGCC NextGen Intern - Summer at Rutgers

Animal Science Residency, Research and Internship Program (SURE & SELP)

- Developed 30 Rutgers learning modules on USDA mission-critical topics.
- 23 Faculty, Farm Staff, Graduate students mentored, and 11 Rutgers Animal Sciences students served as Peer Mentors for the summer cohort. 25 students were selected from 45 applications for the summer residency.
- The program served 25 SELP and SURE students in a three-week intensive residential experiential learning.
- Launched a 104-hour Farm Crew Training for students.

