



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. LAGCC is uniquely positioned to build a diverse FANH workforce, both geographically and from an urban setting. ANSCId creates a structured, scholarship-supported pathway from NYC high schools to LAGCC and on to Rutgers, 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 for historically underrepresented students.

**+214% Increase in
Animal Science Major
Enrollment**

56 Internships

+26% Increase in GPA



"This internship experience expanded my view of public service careers. Before, I had not fully considered a government position as a viable setting for research-oriented work. But through close collaboration with the Rural Development team, my perspective has shifted, and I now see federal service as a real career path."

- LAGCC USDA NextGen Intern - Rural Development

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: Summer Experiential Learning Program (SELP) and Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE).
- **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



EXPLORE THE FIELDS OF THE FUTURE

Rutgers Animal Science Workforce Training Residency, Research and Internship Program

- Developed 30+ workforce development learning modules on USDA mission-critical topics focused on Animal and Human Health, Food and Agriculture, and Biomedical Research.
- Rutgers faculty, farm staff and graduate students mentored 15 SELP and 6 SURE students from LAGCC.
- Students developed experiential learning in veterinary clinical techniques, animal husbandry, livestock handling, wet lab techniques such as PCR and tissue culture.
- Students gained knowledge on beef cattle, dairy operations, and agribusiness.
- Placed 12 students into a newly created Rutgers Office of Research - Comparative Medicine Resources internship to expose students to lab animal science and biomedical research.



"This internship opened my eyes to the range of opportunities within the USDA. There is a place for everyone, and I know I'll find mine."
- LAGCC NextGen Intern - USDA Forest Service

Guided Pathways to Careers in Animal Science and Agriculture

- 2,209 high school and A.S. degree students attended 27 NextGen events.
- 56 students completed internships in urban/small-scale farming, USDA virtual internships with placements in APHIS, Forest Service, and Farm Service Agency, providing exposure to key roles in biosecurity, compliance, and resource management.
- 8 students received scholarships (tuition assistance at LAGCC and transfer to Rutgers)
- 200+ students across Rutgers and LaGuardia participated in professional development activities with USDA mentors.
- 32 students conducted research and 15 presented at city-wide undergraduate research conferences.



"After attending the USDA NextGen conference, it opened my eyes to all the opportunities the government has to offer. As an aspiring veterinarian this has solidified my interests to conduct research in the field." - Rutgers NextGen Participant

Overall Impact: This partnership expands access to USDA career pathways for NYC students, connecting them with opportunities through APHIS, Rural Development, and the Farm Service Agency. Through hands-on workforce training, 56 students gained practical skills in livestock management, dairy operations, and agribusiness, while 8 students received scholarships to support USDA-related careers. By collaborating with agricultural high schools, farmers, and ranchers across NY and NJ, the program strengthens regional training in livestock, dairy systems, and wildlife conservation, building a robust agricultural workforce and conservation pipeline from high school to college and into USDA careers.