

RSA TODAY

News for New York State's Rural Schools

October 2018 Vol. 2



I don't live in New York,

I live in New York

"Communities Committed to Educational Excellence"

David A. Little, Esq., Executive Director, dal295@cornell.edu 518-250-5710

Dr. Gretchen Rymarchyk, Deputy Director, gkr1@cornell.edu 607-254-3557

Natalie Mitchell, Administrative Assistant. nam33@cornell.edu 607-255-8709

Fax: 607/254-2896

Rural Schools Association of New York State
Warren Hall 275 Flex
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853
www.RSANY.org

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Cuba Rushford Central Schools Scott Jordan Honored By New York State Education Department

Dear RSA Members,

October 16, 2018 was a banner day for New York's rural schools! On that day, for the first time in our history, the entire Board of Regents, Chancellor Rosa, Commissioner Elia and the top staff of the State Education Department convened to recognize the success of rural education, to pledge their help in addressing our challenges and to honor Scott Jordan, our National Rural Educator of the Year.



L to R, Regent Collins, Cuba Rushford Principal Katie Ralston, Jody Jordan, Chancellor Rosa, Scott Jordan and Commissioner Elia pose with Scott's plaque honoring his designation as New York State and National Rural Educator of the Year

As you know, your RSA began publicizing the unique educational experience being offered at Cuba Rushford Central Schools and its CRCS Outdoors program, conceived of,



Scott Jordan explains the value and challenges of rural education to the Board of Regents

built and run by 8th Grade science teacher Scott Jordan. We wrote about Scott in RSA Today and then embarked on a campaign to have his work become nationally known. We have succeeded beyond our expectations. Our campaign to have Scott named the National Rural Educator of the Year was successful and Scott has since spoken in several states and before the National Rural Education Association's Annual Conference.

Last week Scott spoke for a third time at that conference and was named to the board that selects the National Rural Educator of the Year. On the 16th of this month, Scott was

recognized by the entire New York State Board of Regents, as they focused on rural education. During that session, Commissioner Elia highlighted the value and challenges of

our rural schools. Chancellor Rosa commended the efforts of our rural schools and the communities that support them and Regent Collins spoke at length about the need for the Regents to recognize the unique issues and funding requirements of our rural districts.

Then the fun began! Scott Jordan (joined by his wife Jody, Principal Katie Ralston and myself) was presented a plaque honoring his work and designation as the New York State and National Rural Educator of the Year. Scott showed a video explaining CRCS Outdoors and their success in science and other subject areas through their experiential learning approach. He spoke eloquently about the value of hands on learning, about finding what your particular students love and using that to show them the value of what they're learning. Scott showed the top educational leaders in our state what rural schools can do. It started a conversation.



Principal Ralston, Jody Jordan, Scott Jordan and Dave Little pose with Scott's plaque in the Regents' Room at SED

Regents approached Scott and I about rural education in our state. We spoke about how the state's approach and funding mechanism has failed to recognize the circumstances of our rural school districts and we offered



Scott Jordan and Commissioner Elia pose in the Regents Room of the State Education Building

suggestions. They were energized and inspired to do better by our rural students. They are planning trips to rural schools now and want to speak with me about our agenda. Urban Regents in particular recognized the state's failure and want to talk further. We have the makings of an urban-rural alliance based on our mutual economic and social needs.

When your RSA Board of Directors decided to allow RSA to spend staff time on promoting a New York State rural teacher as the National Rural Educator of the Year, I'm sure they had no idea that their decision would result in our recipient speaking to thousands of school leaders across the country and now to our state's educational policymakers. That decision has now inspired leaders from every state. They've recognized the heights that can be reached despite the often meager resources of our rural communities. They know to look for the connection between their stu-

dents' interests and their instructional program and style. That decision and of course, Scott's phenomenal efforts, have helped shape rural education throughout the nation and have turned the heads of our state's educational decision makers.

I want to thank all of you for your confidence, assistance and support in that effort. In so many ways, your RSA is making a difference and our rural children are the beneficiaries. Well done!

All the best,

Dave

section 5005 Final Report on Rural Education

Below is the link to the Section 5005 Final Report on Rural Education, issued by the Department's Office of Rural and Community Engagement in September 2018.

As you may know, this report was mandated by Congress as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA). ESSA re-authorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and Section 5005 of the ESSA required the Department of Education to issue a report detailing the actions it will take to meaningfully increase the involvement of rural schools and rural local educational agencies in helping develop Departmental policies and regulations.

We hope this report is useful to you and we encourage you to share it with your colleagues throughout the rural education community.

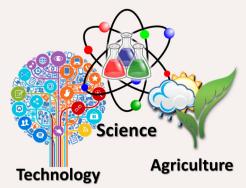
You may access the Rural Report here: https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/rural/rural-education-report.pdf





RSA Executive Director David Little reacts to attendees at The Future of Rural Schools session at the NYSCOSS Fall Leadership Summit

Growing Interest in Agriculture Programs



Acey Berneche, a junior at Mount Markham Senior High School, wants to join the Army and go to medical school. But once he's out of the Army, he plans to buy a small farm.

Sophomore Madison Marsh wants to become an officer with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Ben Plungis, another sophomore, is thinking about a career in auto body repair, but also is also interested in "just stuff you might actually need in life," he said.

All three students have signed up for an animal science class, part of the agriculture program Mount Markham launched a year ago, decades after another agriculture program ended. Mount Markham Middle School students now take a half-year and a quarter-year mandatory agriculture classes in seventh and eighth grade, a mandatory program that replaces home and careers and complements the school's technology classes.

"Bringing an agriculture program back to Mount Markham was very much a student- and community-driven initiative," said middle school teacher Katie Lindsey.

For decades, only Vernon-Verona-Sherrill Central School District and Adirondack Central School District offered agricultural classes locally, but interest has picked up in recent years as schools focus more attention on educating students for a variety of careers. The Waterville Central School District also started a program last year.

In high school, Mount Markham students have the option of continuing agriculture classes with one of five electives. The district also is in the process of getting a certified agriculture track in Careeers and Technology Education.

Agriculture classes appeal to a variety of students looking at all kinds of careers paths, some related to agriculture and some not, said high school teacher Eric Bugbee. Students like the hands-on classes that give them a break from lectures, he said. And the classes work for students who are headed into careers.

"I think we're doing a better job of teaching to every student," Bugbee said.

The Oneida County Dairy Farmer Sustainability Action Plan calls for bringing agricultural curriculum and FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America) chapters to every district in the county.

Only schools with agricultural courses can host chapters of the FFA and the organization is growing, adding 34 chapters in the last three years for a total of 126 chapters with at least another 70 schools asking about starting an agriculture program and chapter, said Derek Hill, New York FFA Director at Cornell University.

Today, three buses carrying 141 students, 27 teachers and six more chaperones from 22 area districts — including Remsen, VVS, Madison, Hamilton, Mount Markham and Waterville —are leaving for the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, returning Sunday morning.

Not just for farmers

Across the state, 51 percent of rural schools — and 7 percent of urban schools — now offer agricultural education, said Keith Schiebel, the recently retired teacher and current Oneida County legislator who taught agriculture at VVS for 33 years.

The upsurge in agricultural education isn't about creating the next generation of farmers. Teachers say that agriculture classes can prepare students for a multitude of careers, teach them useful life skills and give them a new way of mastering concepts taught in other classes.

At VVS, for example, maple production is the core of the agriculture program, but students learn about a lot more than making maple syrup, Schiebel said. They learn about scientific concepts such as reverse osmosis and boiling points. They learn about the communication skills needed for marketing.

"Maple is the vehicle that teaches broader concepts," he said.

Adirondack agriculture teacher Heather Sweeney agreed.

"I find a lot of the other subject areas that kids may struggle with in school ... when we can apply them in an agricultural setting, in a subject area that makes sense to them and that they're familiar with, ... you literally see the light bulbs go on," she said.

Agricultural programs rely on three components — classroom and laboratory instruction; FFA, which teaches personal growth and leadership; and career preparation through supervised agricultural experiences, said Waterville agriculture teacher Cindy Gallagher.

"It's this model which I believe prepares students so well for careers as well as post-secondary education and training," she said.

Sweeney said that she tells her students that agriculture is about food production, which makes it universal and of interest to anyone.

"Everybody is involved in agriculture," she said, "in some way or another every single day of their life."

Contact reporter Amy Neff Roth at 315-792-5166 or follow her on Twitter (@OD_Roth).

By Amy Neff Roth - Observer Dispatch
Posted Oct 23, 2018 at 5:00 AM

Agriculture-related classes

Here are some examples of agriculture classes being offered in local high schools:

- Introduction to food, agriculture and natural resources
- Animal science
- Plant science
- Maple production
- Equine science
- Veterinary science
- Agricultural or environmental science
- Agricultural power and technology
- Agriculture business

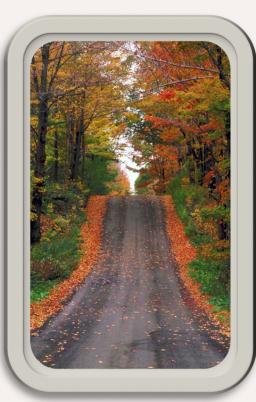


It's been ten years since the Great Recession of 2008, marking the devastating economic collapse which plummeted the stock market, leveled the housing industry, and eliminated many jobs nationwide. But for New York, the blow was lessened ever so slightly, thanks to government bailouts on Wall Street among other factors, making for an interesting economic recovery. A new report from the Empire Center examines a bounce-back concerning job growth and unemployment resting on an imbalance between downstate and upstate: Downstate ending in the lower Hudson Valley and upstate including the 50 counties north of Orange and Dutchess. The Empire Center's Research Director, EJ MacMahon explains further. Listen at this link:

http://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/capital-region/capital-tonight-interviews/2018/10/23/empire-report-upstate-downstate







Rural Student Mental Health and Safety Conference

Friday, December 14th, 2018 10AM to 3PM Crowne Plaza in Lake Placid



Hear from top experts relaying the most timely and important information to support and protect your students. The conference is planned to compress information into a shorter time frame to allow travel from significant distances. You don't have to live in the North Country to benefit from this high level summit on the most pressing issue facing our schools. You won't want to miss the chance to hear from the experts, as well as discuss implementation with your peers!

We have a lineup of experts from Cornell University and the Mental Health Association in NYS to talk with you about all things mental health: poverty's impacts, outdoor time, environment, the new health curricular requirement, etc. Our aim is for you to leave with a deeper understanding to help inform your responses, together with an array of ideas and tools you can use in the short and near term, with little or no additional resources.

Keynote speaker Dr. Gary Evans from Cornell University's College of Human Ecology will talk about his work looking at how poverty impacts students' ability to learn, and what can be done to ameliorate negative impacts.

He will be followed by the Executive Director, and North Country Regional Support from the Mental Health Association of NY to tell you about the resources they have for implementing the new mental health curriculum requirements.

Dr. Gen Meredith from Cornell will then talk with you about contextual factors that impact student mental health, and ideas for how we can work these to better favor mental health. She is currently researching the positive impacts of students spending time outdoors.

Finally, Dr. Anna Haskins from Cornell will share with you some of her work on how having an incarcerated parent impacts student learning, how these impacts compare other separation traumas (foster care placement, family separation, death of a parent, parental addiction or mental illness, etc.), and give ideas schools can use to help buffer these impacts.

Price is \$75.00 per registrant (lunch is included) Watch www.rsany.org for registration materials and agenda details to come out around late October/early November.

Sponsored by:







Dr. Gretchen Rymarchyk, Deputy Director RSA

peputy Directors Corner Research News from Cornell

Fraud Alert:

We would like to draw your attention to this issue that's been in the news lately, if you have not already seen it: Dr. Brian Wansink's work has come under question, with a chunk of it debunked. His work is what informs the Smarter Lunchroom movement that we have referenced in newsletters, on our Face Book page, and on our website.

Several, but far from all, of his papers have been retracted, and he himself has resigned from Cornell. As of this writing, the Smarter Lunchroom site is still active. I have read several articles about the fraudulent work, with an eye toward how this might impact the Smarter Lunchrooms project, but have not found anything definitive – does not mean there are no links however. This article mentions Smarter Lunchrooms but also does not give any information on whether the articles retracted were foundational to this project: https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/29/sunday-review/cornell-food-scientist-wansink-misconduct.html

To be fair, I have not searched for all the details of this fraud, nor have I gone upstairs to ask around at the Smarter Lunchrooms office. I just wanted to make people aware. I also want to offer to dig deeper if anyone is using the Smarter Lunchrooms project and wants some answers. Please reach out to me at <a href="https://dx.org/gkt.nuchrooms.org/g

The good news is that academia is working exactly as it was designed. It is widely recognized that researchers are human and susceptible to all the same things any of us are, including bias. Even with all the research training in how to build a study that reduces bias, we can never be certain it is all factored out. The pressure to publish, the perks of fame, and the seduction of money can all help us talk ourselves into (or out of) things that we might not otherwise be susceptible to. I don't know what drove Dr. Wansink's methods. But I do know that the peer review process, and the notion of "replication" (meaning that if a study finds XYZ, none of us should be changing what we do unless several studies have been able to replicate the results) are there to catch these things, which is exactly what happened.

Communications Update:

It has come to our attention that not all of our members are on Face Book. Face Book has been a good tool for us to get information out to hundreds of people, and a good tool to connect with our membership and beyond, so we will continue to use it. However we wanted to make sure those of you who don't use it are still in the loop, so here are some of our more recent posts, and links where you can get more information. We will try to include such a list in this section of the newsletter from now on.



Published by Gretchen Rymarchyk [?] · September 14 · ❖

RESOURCE (h/t Journal of Research in Rural Education): Rural Matters is a biweekly 30-minute podcast about rural education, business, and health. The podcast's mission is to increase awareness, inform discussion, and expand the dialogue on the most important issues facing rural stakeholders today. You can access and subscribe for free to the podcast by using the links below or typing Rural Matters in the podcast search button on your smartphone.

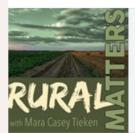
Libsyn: http://ruralmatters.libsyn.com/

iTunes: https://itunes.apple.com/.../podca.../rural-matters

/id1271598048

Google Play: https://play.google.com/music/listen...

Stitcher: http://www.stitcher.com/s?fid=147778&refid=stpr



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Rural Matters

Rural Matters is a biweekly, 30-minute podcast about rural education, business, and health. The podcast's mission is to increase awareness, inform discussion, and expand the dialogue on

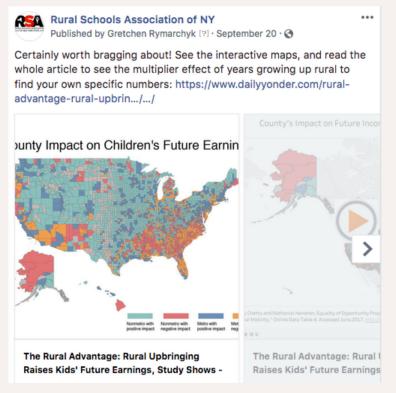
http://ruralmatters.libsyn.com/?fbclid=IwAR3lTSxQ6LuujdiLcaRZnCu-PTvUqZAtzKsT0Nwiluv6oYX09vg]bWQvAKY



No link – just a re-post from Colton-Pierrepont Central School's Face Book page.

A great team effort and positive feedback from our Rural Schools Association of NY presentation on "Going Digital with Reader's & Writer's Workshop"

Like Page



https://www.dailyyonder.com/rural-advantage-rural-upbringing-raises-kids-future-earnings-study-shows/2017/08/03/20595/?fbclid=IwAR2zjfeLYrSzkgkGbvV7i6BXWaY07T991aM88Y46Qgf7EqOEuvlYDAOhaSc



https://www.dailyyonder.com/rural-childhood-contributes-later-economic-success/2018/09/12/27532/?fbclid=IwAR0V11B2Qp0_8pySIVlpIUcPFI4sm-sGsvSadP4tLgVB2c3_AVII2oJmNcA





Helping Young People in Foster Care Heal From Trauma and Build Resilience - The Annie E. Casey Foundation

https://www.aecf.org/blog/helping-young-people-in-foster-care-heal-from-trauma-and-build-resili-

ence/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=blog&utm_content=aecf&utm_term=aecf.org&fbclid =IwAR2W1vWKHQ2VmNnehV5L1YciX2pvZsG-xZlOI -LEp4tnrt7Iai]DZ





Students do better at public colleges than for-profit colleges

https://www.marketwatch.com/story/students-do-better-at-public-colleges-than-for-profit-colleges-just-dont-blame-the-students-2018-09-18?fbclid=IwAR3w48g7G1RzgmJ5wSRhCk2zXCgz8TF0yrOUNvyNz2sYTOzITwZxLYvHjSw



http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2018/09/fish-dna-mars-stem-programs-inspire-kids-across-nys?fbclid=IwAR14VFMrmq1h9UgDnrJ7Gs-H-Elcc7OV5iLH4j7I-3zu7Qg0v6GSIcE6Gfs

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Elders are an at-risk group in rural areas. Increasingly, we are understanding the benefits of inter generational interactions for all involved. Here is an idea with supporting materials, available across NY: https://www.bctr.cornell.edu/national-4h-adopts-program-c.../...



BCTR.CORNELL.EDU

National 4-H adopts BCTR program connecting youth with elders

https://www.bctr.cornell.edu/national-4h-adopts-program-connecting-youth-with-elders/?utm_source=CCE+Campus+Connections&utm_campaign=b4777ef2b8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_03_06_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_35e637ecd8-b4777ef2b8-88348965&fbclid=IwAR1wrx5M_



https://govt.westlaw.com/nyreg/Document/Ife2b4fe2c6e211e88e7ad0643919d66c?viewType=FullText&originationContex t=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default)&bhcp=1



Ag in the classroom!!! Reach out to your local 4H! I recently spoke with the Director of NY 4H Youth Development, who explained 4H prefers indepth programming, rather than one-off, so mentoring relationships can be formed. But the content is great for hand-on learning in a variety of core subjects. Check them out. https://www.nysenate.gov/.../senator-funke-secures-grant-supp...



NYSENATE.GOV

Senator Funke Secures Grant to Support Agriculture Industry Through Youth Outreach Program at Cornell...

https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/rich-funke/senator-funke-secures-grant-support-agriculture-industry-0?utm_source=CCE+Campus+Connections&utm_campaign=b4777ef2b8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_03_06_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_35e637ecd8-b4777



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http://climatesmartfarming.org/tools/csf-county-climatechange/?utm_source=CCE+Campus+Connections&utm_campaign=b4777ef2b8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_03_06_COPY_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_35e637ecd8-b4777ef2b8-88348965&fbclid=IwAR2cYwoxjebyS6eahJd1xdEHOAj6Tjc



https://agamerica.com/history-of-national-farmers-day/?fbclid=IwAR3poMCmbeaxX1h6WG2f5YbW5rjaMP3kfMggi06_VcjAMT9P6G3IrdOgBvc



https://agamerica.com/history-of-national-farmers-day/?fbclid=IwAR3poMCmbeaxX1h6WG2f5YbW5rjaMP3kfMqgi06_VcjAMT9P6G3IrdOgBvc



CCE's Kim Kopko talks parenting education on podcast In the latest "Doing Translational Research" podcast from BCTR, Janis Whitlock speaks with CCE associate director Kim Kopko about parenting education and the importance of getting buy-in from the right people at community agencies during research and the need to give all children an equally strong start in life. Listen here:



Ep. 23: "Give All Children a Chance" with Kimberly Kopko, Cornell University

https://soundcloud.com/doingtr/ep-23-give-all-children-a-chance-with-kimberly-kopko-cornell-university?utm_source=CCE+Campus+Connections&utm_campaign=c3c6b5d8ab-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_03_06_COPY_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_35e637ecd8-c3c6b5d8ab-88348965&f



https://www.bctr.cornell.edu/events/talks-at-twelve-kimberly-kopko-sharon-tennyson-john-sipple/?fbclid=IwAR2tiIVEFYIicSQ3WBjzvIWvt_Lgr5_pEYrVEbF1w_D1cNvynKJs8rrAIg#.W8f7Wxq1YqY.facebook



Here's a follow up from a report in our March 2017 newsletter (p. 11 https://www.rsany.org/document-archive) on Digital Ag at Cornell: https://cals.cornell.edu/.../digital-agriculture-initiative.../...



CALS.CORNELL.EDU

Digital agriculture initiative to tackle food security challenges | CALS

https://cals.cornell.edu/news/digital-agriculture-initiative-tackle-food-security-challenges/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=cals_field_notes&fbclid=IwAR3U5ac7r-8C2yqVXmDfzrjfegmcn9_xvV3VjP6omqIW1EjFwBgr3bfq84s