

RUTGERS

School of Environmental
and Biological Sciences



Speakers



Austin Castillo-Leovan joined the World Food Prize Foundation in September of 2020 as a Program Coordinator for the Global Youth Programs. He is responsible for assisting the Director of Global Programs and Partnerships in the coordination, innovation and expansion of the Foundation's youth empowerment and education programs around the world.

Austin graduated from Iowa State University in 2018 with a Bachelor's Degree in Geology. While at Iowa State University, Austin was a program assistant for the Urban Ecosystems Project, facilitating culturally-responsive science programming for elementary school students and coordinating a

Saturday Science Club program for middle school students. He was active in the community and campus life as a mentor for Science Bound, a volunteer at Moulton Elementary School and Iowa 4-H, as well as a member of the Geology Club and the American Association for Petroleum Geologists. During his undergraduate education Austin studied abroad at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia.

Prior to his position at the World Food Prize Foundation, Austin was a Program Facilitator at Al Exito where he coordinated student run after-school programs for Latin/Hispanic students, engaging them in large and small group discussions on college prep, identity, and community enrichment while facilitating team building and leadership development activities.



Morgan Day joined the World Food Prize staff in December 2016 as the Director of Planning. In December of 2018 she was appointed Director of Global Programs and Partnerships.

Morgan is responsible for the direction and expansion of World Food Prize Foundation existing education programs on a national and international level, with a primary focus on WFPF Youth Institutes.

Morgan earned a Master of Arts in International Development and a concentration in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Policy from the Josef Korbel School for International Studies at the University of Denver.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Tennessee in Political Science and French in 2010.

Prior to joining the World Food Prize, Morgan worked as the Office Manager of the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico and as a political consultant and policy coordinator at the local and state levels tackling issues in agriculture, food, nutrition and health. As the Coordinator for the Santa Fe City & County Advisory Council on Food Policy, she worked to create a more sustainable, affordable, secure and fair food system. At the state level, Morgan was a Policy Specialist with the New Mexico Food & Agriculture Policy Council, where she advocated at the state legislature with food and agriculture stakeholders from across the state, as well as with Navajo and Pueblo tribal partners.

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Brian Schilling is Director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension and Senior Associate Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. He provides executive leadership in advancement of Rutgers University's cooperative extension mission to improve the lives of New Jersey residents and their communities through the delivery of science-based educational outreach within the state's 21 counties.

Schilling holds an academic appointment as Extension Specialist of Agricultural Policy in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, Rutgers University. During his 28 years at the School, much of Schilling's research has been focused on New Jersey farm viability, farmland preservation, and agricultural economic development at the urban-rural fringe. Throughout his career Schilling has worked closely with the agricultural and food industries and has served on a number of industry and government task forces and working groups. He currently serves as past-chair of the Association of Northeast Extension Directors. He is a past-president of the New Jersey Agricultural Society and serves on the State Agriculture Development Committee. He is the author of more than 110 papers and briefings on various issues relating to the food and agricultural system and has given more than 125 invited lectures to academic, business, government, and industry groups. He holds a BS in resource management, an MS in agricultural economics, and a Ph.D. in planning and public policy, all from Rutgers University.

Expert Panelists



Carol Broccoli is the Assistant Director of the Rutgers/New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Office of Continuing Professional Education (OCPE). At OCPE since 1999, she develops and offers continuing education programs in the areas of drinking water, wastewater, solid waste and recycling. She serves on the NJDEP's Advisory Committee on Water Supply and Wastewater Licensed Operator Training and is a member of the Education and Professional Development Committee of the New Jersey Section of the American Water Works Association.



Brian Ducey has been an agricultural educator and FFA advisor for 12 years. Before serving the students of Freehold Township, Brian spent a decade building, renovating and maintaining golf courses in the US and in Ireland. Recently, he completed a Masters in Business Science with a Global Agriculture concentration at Rutgers University. He lives with his wife and two children at Spring Wind Farm in Central New Jersey.



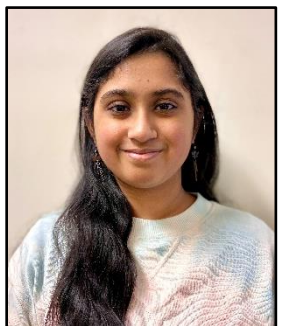
Dr. Karla Esquilín-Lebrón is originally from Puerto Rico where she completed her Bachelor's degree at the University of Puerto Rico-Humacao and earned her PhD in Microbiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Currently she works as a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology at Rutgers-New Brunswick. She is passionate about science communication, teaching and mentoring underrepresented students in STEAM fields. During her time at Rutgers she joined the RU-SACNAS Chapter as the outreach coordinator, organized and participated scientific outreach activities, and taught undergraduate lectures. You can learn more about her story

here : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qqm8-rnhR20>.



Dr. Carrie Ferraro is an Associate Director for Coastal Climate Risk & Resilience (C2R2) Initiative, Carrie supports graduate students from throughout Rutgers University in designing and conducting impactful research that integrates natural, socio-economic, and engineered elements of coastal systems and engages multiple stakeholder communities in the co-design, co-production and dissemination of science. She also works with the Department of Marine & Coastal Sciences and NJ Climate Change Resource Center to foster connections between students, researchers, and stakeholders. Carrie grew up in central New Jersey but has also lived in a number of other places,

including Boston, Washington, D.C., San Diego and Glasgow, Scotland. She returned to New Jersey in 2003 in order to obtain her Ph.D. in Oceanography studying the active microbial population in aquatic environments using molecular markers. After graduating, she realized that instead of research, she preferred to share the science with a variety of audiences, so she began working with researchers to communicate their science through the construction and implementation of innovative Broader Impact statements that fulfill National Science Foundation requirements. As part of this effort, Carrie co-developed a number of training programs for early career researchers focusing on effectively science communication and how to form meaningful collaborations and partnerships.



Nidhi Girish Nidhi is a high school senior passionate about neuroscience and psychology. She has interned with psychologists and Cognitive Behavior therapists and participates in essay contests. She wants to be a psychiatrist in the future and has been a Borlaug Scholar since 2020. Outside of school, Nidhi loves to sing and play badminton.



Dr. Anna Hausmann is a faculty member and veterinary medical doctor in the Animal Sciences Department. Prior to full-time teaching, Dr. H practiced mixed animal veterinary medicine where she interacted with all types of animals (cattle, pigs, dogs, cats, horses, sheep, goats, etc.). She is excited to see what projects will be presented this year and is excited to meet you all!



Sandra Howland is a Research Scientist with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Agricultural and Natural Resources. She works with the agriculture industry and producers across the State. The core of her position is nutrient management and animal waste management producer assistance and regulatory compliance. Sandra works directly with livestock and crop farmers, as well as with municipal, state, and federal agencies.

She also coordinates with NJDEP regarding a variety of agricultural issues including irrigation water supply, land use, solid waste and recycling, and odor issues. She represents agriculture on NJ Department of Environmental Protection's Clean or Council and Clean Water Council.

Sandra has a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Science, Minors in Environmental Soil Science and International Agriculture from The Pennsylvania State University, 2007 and a Master of Arts in Environmental Studies – Environmental Science from Montclair State University, 2014



Dr. Jin Yanhong received her PhD degree from Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at University of California, Berkeley. She joined the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey in 2008 as an assistant professor. She is currently a full professor at Rutgers. Dr. Jin's research interest is on applied economics focusing on health, food, nutrition, and the environment. The recognition of Dr. Jin's research is demonstrated through citations by peer research, presentations at scholarly and professional meetings, and the attraction of external competitive grants. She has established an outstanding research profile that evidenced by peer reviewed journal articles (50) and conference presentations (44). She has published in top

economics journals, such as American Journal of Health Economics and American Journal of Agricultural Economics. Dr. Jin is recognized as a supporting advisor or mentor for doctoral, master, and undergraduate students. She served as a chair or co-chair for two Ph.D. students and nine master students. Currently, she serves as a cochair for a doctoral student and as a chair for two master students. Undergraduate students regularly invite her to be their faculty adviser for their research projects, George H. Cook Honor projects, and SPIN projects. Dr. Jin has hosted six visiting scholars and four visiting students. The collaboration with visiting scholars has expanded Dr. Jin's research in both thematic topics and geographic locations.



Dr. Ruta Jog has a keen interest in metabolism and metabolic disorders. In October 2020, she graduated with a Ph.D. in Molecular Pathology of Human Disease from Wayne State University School of Medicine. With her Ph.D. work in the lab of Dr. Todd Leff and Dr. Jian Wang, she identified a hormonal regulation axis for glycine decarboxylase gene that might be playing a role in the stimulation of glycine catabolism in metabolic disease, thereby reducing glycine levels in circulation. She also showed how this gene played a role in cellular redox balance, possibly through altering the metabolic flux through the one-carbon pathway linking to the transsulfuration pathway. Soon after her defense, she joined as a postdoctoral associate in Dr. George Carman's lab at the Rutgers Center

for Lipid Research, New Jersey Institute for Food, Nutrition, and Health. Broadly, Dr. Jog is studying the regulation of phospholipid metabolism using the model system *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and learning how to apply molecular genetics and biochemical approaches for the same.



Ben Jorritsma Ben Jorritsma is a fourth-generation farmer from Sussex County, specializing in specialty/ethnic crops and alt energy for farm operations. He is also on the Sussex County Board of Ag and involved in promoting Maker activities in Northern NJ.



Dr. Larry Katz is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Animal Sciences in Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. From 2008 until 2018 he served as the Senior Associate Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES), and Director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Dr. Katz received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Cornell University, and his doctorate from the University of California at Davis. He joined Rutgers in 1989 and chaired the Department of Animal Sciences from 2001-08. He also served as research director of the Rutgers University Center for Wildlife Damage Control. Dr. Katz's scholarly expertise is in behavioral endocrinology, reproductive biology, and the behavior of domestic animals. He has published more than 135 peer-reviewed articles and scientific abstracts, and has delivered hundreds of invited presentations. He has served on committees at the university, state, and national level regarding agricultural animal care and wildlife damage control.

As Director of Rutgers Cooperative Extension he led the community outreach efforts of extension specialists and agents to help the diverse population of New Jersey adapt to a rapidly changing society and improve lives and communities through an educational process that uses science-based knowledge. The goals of these efforts were to ensure healthy lifestyles; provide productive futures for youth, adults, and communities; enhance and protect environmental resources; ensure economic growth and agricultural sustainability; and improve food safety and nutrition.



Dr. Mukund Karwe is a Distinguished Professor of Food Engineering and the Dean of International Programs at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences of Rutgers University, New Jersey. Dr. Karwe served as the Chair of the Department of Food Science at Rutgers, for seven years (2007-14). Dr. Karwe received his B.Tech. degree in Mechanical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India, and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Rutgers University, New Jersey.

Over the last three decades, Dr. Karwe's research has covered areas such as food extrusion, microwave and hybrid baking, fortification of foods with omega-3 fatty acids, high pressure food processing, effects of processing on nutraceuticals in foods, mathematical modeling of flow of food in human GI tract, modeling of cross-contamination for fresh produce during washing, and cold plasma applications in hydroponics. His research has been funded by the US Department of Agriculture, the US Army, and Food Industry. Dr. Karwe has published over 154 research articles and book chapters, and co-edited a book on Food Extrusion Science & Technology.

Dr. Karwe has received several teaching excellence awards including IFT's William Cruess award and Susman award from Rutgers. Dr. Karwe is a fellow of IFT, a fellow of the International Union of

Food Scientists and Technologist, and a recipient of Life Time Achievement Award from the International Association of Engineering and Food.



Sharon Kinsey Sharon Kinsey has more than 25 years of professional work experience and is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of 4-H Youth Development at Rutgers University where she has led the Camden County 4-H Youth Development Program since 2007. She began her career as an agricultural journalist putting to work her bachelor's degree in journalism from Rutgers University. She also holds a master's degree in strategic communication and leadership from Seton Hall University and is working to complete her doctorate in global studies in education in 2022 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her areas of expertise include leadership and organizational change, teen leadership, civic engagement, global education, and distance education. Kinsey has been published in peer-reviewed journals, such as *The Journal of Extension*, and has also served as a reviewer for the *Journal of Youth Development*.



Dr. Joanna Kwiatek has obtained Ph.D. in UNSW Australia where she investigated biophysical properties of lipids and proteins in cell membranes. Currently, she is a postdoctoral associate at Rutgers University where she is interested in lipid metabolism. Joanna dedicates her spare time to science communication and gardening.



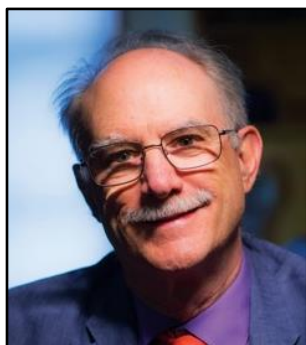
Nolan Lewin is the acting Executive Director and Director of Operations for the two Rutgers Food Innovation Centers - Bridgeton and Piscataway NJ. FIC serves as a catalyst for food and beverage business development in the state and the surrounding region and supports both domestic and international companies. FIC has assisted over 2,900 companies and entrepreneurs to date. It has been recognized globally, nationally, and throughout New Jersey for the effectiveness of its economic development programs.



Arianna Lindberg completed a master's in landscape architecture at Rutgers University, prior to that Arianna received undergraduate degrees in ceramics and art history, and then nurtured her passion for small-scale agriculture while managing a two-acre organic farm in central New Jersey. This proclivity for growing food directly influenced her masters thesis, which focused on large-scale suburban community gardens, and continues to guide her current work in agriculturally oriented courses. Arianna recognizes the distinctive opportunity and ability that the field of landscape architecture has to utilize design in order to problem solve in matters of environmental stewardship, social justice and land planning, and understands it to be a field in which one can both create and give back. As such, she envisions a partnership between landscape architecture and agriculture that inherently speaks to these components in a direct and powerful manner. She is currently pursuing these ideas as a Geography Ph. D candidate.



Dr. Muffin Lord grew up on a horse farm surrounded by horses, dogs, a goat, and a goose who didn't like women. She expected that horses would be her life, but she took a turn, went to college and graduate school (English and then Social Work), and ended up working for 41 years in higher education, with 29 and a half of those years at Rutgers College and then the School of Arts and Sciences, as an advisor and administrator for the Honors Program and the Scholarships Office. It was the best job in the world -- she especially loved working with undergraduates, so she is happy today to have a chance to work with undergraduates-to-be. Along the way, Dr. Lord began volunteering with our local Food Pantry. When she retired in July 2017, my responsibilities with the Food Pantry expanded; then, with the pandemic, everything we did changed, and her responsibilities again shifted. It is a beautiful, loving program, and Dr. Lord is proud to be a part of it. So two things have opened her mind to the issue of hunger: her work with the Food Pantry, and her "job" as an "expert" judge for the World Food Prize/New Jersey Youth Institute. Dr. Lord states that she is not an expert on any of the things the students have written about, but she surely has learned a lot. In an article in the NY Times Magazine, 9/6/20, Adrian Nicole LeBlanc wrote: "Our treatment of hunger as an emergency, rather than as a symptom of systemic inequities, has long informed our response to it, and as a result, government programs have been designed to alleviate each peak rather than to address the factors that produce them." This is, of course, the way to think about all this: no more food pantries, enough food for everyone.



Dr. Richard Ludescher has had a multi-disciplinary academic career, studying anthropology and philosophy at the University of Iowa, chemistry at the University of Oregon, and muscle biophysics at the University of Minnesota, before accepting a position in food chemistry at the Department of Food Science, Rutgers University—New Brunswick where he is currently a professor.

In addition to running a research program in food physical chemistry and teaching courses in the physical properties of foods, he has served as Undergraduate Program Director and Director of the Graduate Program in Food Science, as George H. Cook Campus Dean for Undergraduate Education, and as the Dean of Academic Programs at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences.

While at Rutgers he has won numerous teaching awards at the department, college, university, and national level, was founding editor-in-chief of the journal Food Biophysics and has been executive producer for two documentary films. His research specifically applies luminescence spectroscopy, both fluorescence and phosphorescence, to study the structure, function, and dynamics of proteins and other biomolecules in aqueous solution and in the amorphous solid state.



Dr. Janice McDonnell is the Science Agent in the Department of 4-H Youth Development at Rutgers University. In this role, Janice connects young people to Rutgers University scientists to help build their awareness and understanding of STEM disciplines. She facilitates a wide range of on-campus programs designed to help students forge a pathway to a STEM career. Janice's background is in marine sciences and has spent her career doing marine science research and education programs. She has spent time on the ocean in a research submersible called the Johnson Sea Link, where she dove 2 ½ miles down into the ocean depths. She is currently a Co-Principal Investigator on a project called Polar Interdisciplinary Coordinated Education (Polar ICE) exploring science and education at the Arctic and Antarctica.



Sarah McDougall Ms. McDougall is a Biology and AP Environmental Science teacher at Hightstown High School in East Windsor New Jersey. She also is a advisor for the school's Title 1 College and Career readiness program. Ms. McDougall loves the beach, traveling, and is passionate about environmental issues, most specifically ocean conservation. Ms. McDougall graduated with her BA and MAT from The College of New Jersey. This is Ms. McDougall's third-year participating with the NJ Youth Institute



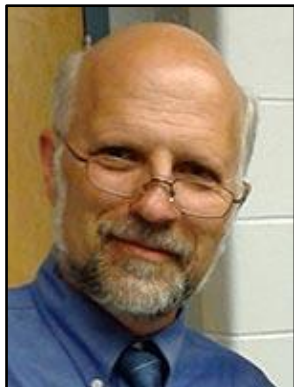
Melissa McKillip is the Vice Dean for Advancement for the Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. She is primarily responsible for overseeing all fundraising operations including major gifts, corporate and foundation relations, gift planning, and annual giving. Melissa joined Rutgers in 2016 with more than 20 years of experience in development, alumni and community engagement, and event planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Johnson & Wales University, Special Olympics Colorado, and the National Civic League. Melissa has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Illinois.



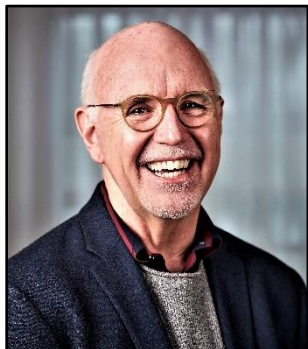
David McNair is a Career and Technical Education Specialist in the Office of Career Readiness at the New Jersey Department of Education. He oversees programs to support students' career exploration, and CTE programs in the Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster®. He also serves as the Perkins Program Officer for Mercer, Ocean and Hunterdon counties. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Mass Media; and a Master of Social Work from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. David is a volunteer with the American Red Cross New Jersey Region.



Sherry Morse Sherry Morse grew up with horses. Her first jobs were on horse farms in New Jersey during high school and she continued working with horses while completing a BA in Sociology with a minor in English and a MS in Management with an emphasis in Change Management from the College of St. Elizabeth. After stints at a consulting firm and a freight forwarding company, she now works at Atkins Global in the Emergency Management group providing support to the housing inspection services project in conjunction with FEMA. Sherry is also the vice president of the Lehigh Valley Dressage Association and formerly served on the boards of the NJ Trail Ride Association and the Eastern Competitive Trail Ride Association.



James Nichnadowicz is a 4-H Agent for Union County, NJ since 1990. Oversee 4-H Youth Development Program. Involves recruitment of volunteers and youth to become part of youth development clubs. (4-H Clubs.) Clubs focus on skill mastery, group dynamics and community service. Extensive experience with community greening/horticulture. Such as group tree plantings; landscaping; and Arbor Day Tree Programs. Professor for course, Edible Gardening for Nutrition and Education.



Dr. Mark Gregory Robson is Rutgers Board of Governors Distinguished Service Professor and Professor of Plant Biology at Rutgers University School of Environmental and Biological Sciences. Mark grew up on a farm in Burlington County New Jersey. He graduated with a BS with High Honors from Rutgers in Agricultural Science and an MS and PhD in Plant Science also from Rutgers. He has an MPH in environmental health from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) School of Public Health. He was also awarded an Honorary Doctoral Degree in Public Health (DrPH) from Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

Mark is a Fellow in the Academy of Toxicological Sciences (ATS), a Fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and a Fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini. His research focus is on exposures to pesticides and agricultural chemicals in developing countries.



Dr. Paul Takhistov is an Associate Professor at the Department of Food Science. He holds an MS degree in Mechanical Engineering and Chemical Engineering, and a PhD in Physical Chemistry.

His research is focused on the micro- and nanoscale interactions in food systems useful in developing new materials for personalized nutrition, intelligent/smart packaging, and novel food processing. He is an expert in the fields of Biosensing, Food Processing and new Product Development.

Dr. Takhistov is a member of Nanotechnology Advisory Committee for the Institute of the Food Technologists, a long-time editor of Food science and Technology Letters Journal, and an editorial member of the Food Biophysics and Biosensors Journals. He also serves as the Director of the Master in Business and Science program in Food Science.

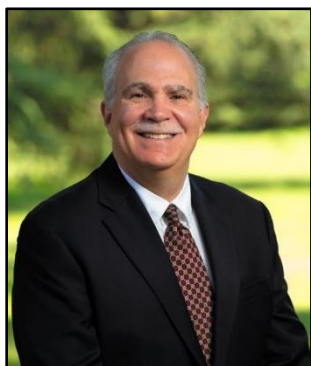


Meredith Taylor is a Research Associate in the Office of Urban Extension and Engagement. Her focus is participatory action research in the areas of urban agriculture, food systems and public health. She works statewide with groups focused on building local and healthy food systems in underserved communities. Meredith teaches an undergraduate course in Food Justice and Community Advocacy and oversees the Cook Campus Organic Garden and Urban Farm Incubator. She convenes a network and biannual conference called Ag in the City that connects urban farmers and gardeners across New Jersey and serves on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Environmental Justice Advisory Council (EJAC). Meredith

received a Masters Degree in Food Studies and Nutrition from New York University and her Master of Public Health from NY Medical College School of Public Health. Meredith is a Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener and an avid beekeeper.



Aalind Tyagi is a self-proclaimed “technology enthusiast,” Aalind Tyagi has a strong passion for exploring the implications of technology in agricultural, medical, and consumer fields. At West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North, Aalind is a proud member of 2 robotics teams where he competes in annual competitions. Aalind also enjoys teaching others about the implications of robotics and engineering as a teacher for his local robotics institute. As a delegate in the 2020 Global Youth Institute, Aalind was able to take away an immense amount of important knowledge regarding not only his topic of malnutrition in Kenya, but also the fields of agriculture and insecurity that surrounds the world today.



Dr. Joseph Ventola is an Assistant Dean in Academic Programs at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers University. For over 25 years, Dr. Ventola has served first year, upper-class, non-traditional, and transfer students on academic related matters. Along with a range of academic functions and events for the Office of Academic Programs, Dr. Ventola directs the SEBS Scholarship Program and procedures associated with the disbursement of Dean's undergraduate scholarships. He serves as the primary scholarship liaison for awards to the Rutgers University Foundation, Financial Aid Office, Undergraduate Admissions Office and Student Accounting Services. He serves on the Advisory Board for Helyar House, Rutgers University's only cooperative living undergraduate residential unit.

Additionally, Dr. Ventola is an Instructor teaching undergraduate courses in Leadership Skills at Rutgers as well as graduate courses at the Rutgers School of Education. Dr. Ventola earned a Master Degree in Social Work (MSW) and also Doctor of Education Degree (EDD) both from Rutgers.



Dennis Vlegels is a 21-year-old honor student at Wageningen University, majoring in plant sciences, and just finished an exchange program at Cornell University. He demonstrated his passion for food systems by winning the Farm to Fork hackathon of EIT Digital in 2020. Together with his friends, he founded a startup with the pitched idea, called Freeze4Ease. Freeze4Ease helped make local food more accessible by selling frozen ready-to-eat meals in the city centre. His interest in food security sprouted after participating in the GYI of 2018. Dennis maintained a close relationship with The World Food Prize Foundation by doing organizational work for the Wageningen Youth Institute. He works on improving student engagement and helps students directly with their food security research. Because of his involvement since day

one, he played a major role in shaping the Wageningen Youth Institute. As an international participant of the GYI and student, Dennis strives to increase international collaboration between the Youth Institutes with his seat on the Council of Advisors of the WFPF. When he is not busy ending world hunger, Dennis likes to run, golf, bake, and tutor high school students.



Jackasha Wiley Jackasha-Janaee Wiley is director of Upward Bound & Pre-College Initiatives, responsible for organization and program management of the Upward Bound & Upward Bound Math-Science Pre-College programs. She works with community and district partners to increase educational opportunity and outreach initiatives to strengthen the college-going pipeline. Currently, Ms. Wiley serves as the Immediate Past President for The Association for Equality and Excellence in Education, a regional education equity advocate association for New Jersey and New York TRIO programs and on the Board of Directors for Council for Opportunity in Education.



Dr. Aparna Zama is the Director of the Undergraduate Program and an Associate Teaching Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences. She develops and offers curriculum in the Pre-Veterinary, Companion Animal Science, and Lab Animal Science majors. She also serves in various roles in the Animal Science Program as an academic advisor, research mentor, and teacher. She serves on the Advisor Engagement Committee of the National Association for Advisors of Health Professions and is a member of the Endocrine Society, the Society of Study of Reproduction, and the American Society of Animal Science. Her research interests lie in the effects of endocrine-disrupting chemicals on female reproductive health.