A Message from the Assistant Dean
Dr. Mia Farrell

Welcome Back! It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I bring greetings from the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Office of Diversity to the students, faculty, and staff! Our college is unique because we pride ourselves on having a family atmosphere and I want the University of Kentucky CAFE to be your home away from home.

My journey began in CAFE 12 years ago. The college gave me a sense of belonging and I felt valued. Today, I continue to feel valued as my office pours into the faculty, staff, and students. As you begin the school year, remember the 3 P’s, persistence, passion, and possibilities. Your college experience will give you opportunity to explore.

When setting your short and long term goals remember there are many paths to reach your goal. Goals can be changed, but persistence is key. Find your passion. Do what you love and be the best at what you do. When you are passionate, you will never work one day in your life. And lastly, know that possibilities are endless in CAFE! Best wishes to a successful school year and remember Diversity Starts with Us!
The Office of Diversity is expanding and excited to welcome both Dr. Vanessa Jackson and Kendriana Price to the team! Dr. Jackson serves as the CAFE Director of Faculty Diversity and Inclusiveness. Price is the office's Inclusion and Diversity Program Coordinator. Both additions to the office will help to ensure we are the college's resource to continually foster an environment of inclusion, respect and an appreciation of differences.

Dr. Vanessa Jackson

Click for Professional Profile

Kendriana Price

The second annual Extension Diversity and Inclusion Training was conducted by staff from the University of Kentucky CAFE Office of Diversity, and state specialists from the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and Kentucky State University Cooperative Extension.

The training focused on Cultural Awareness and Intercultural Conflict Styles with seventeen participants. The training was offered to Extension staff as part of the Kentucky Extension Reporting System (KERS) In-Service Catalogue to allow staff to earn credit hours as part of the career ladder promotion system.

Through the evaluation process conducted with the participants, 100% stated that as a result of the training, they are able to identify with the values of their own culture and have the framework to help them understand cultural differences.

One hundred percent of the participants, through the activities conducted in the training, know people who can help them understand cultures that are different than their own. Learn More.
8th Annual Jr. MANRRS Leadership Institute

The 8th Annual Jr. MANRRS Leadership Institute took place November 15-16, 2019. The goal of Jr. MANRRS and this institute is to encourage students in grades 7-12 to attend college and pursue agriculture, natural resources, and environmental science degrees.

Themed "Homecoming," this year's Institute welcomed 77 scholars to the UK CAFE campus. Program offerings included 4 contests, 8 interactive workshops, and exposure to 16 Opportunity Fair Vendors. Scholars were also joined by 4 UK MANRRS alumni who participated in this year's empowerment panel.

From the powerful panel to the interactive workshops, 40% of participants shared through their post-evaluation surveys that they are more likely to attend the University of Kentucky after experiencing the 2019 Jr. MANRRS scholar weekend. We look forward to our 2020 Institute, and thank all of this year's sponsors and supporters for another great weekend inspiring the next generation of agricultural leaders.

"I joined MANRRS because a friend of mine was on the executive board my freshman year as one of the Freshman Representatives. He asked me to join him for a meeting in the Spring Semester, I was hesitant at first but decided to go anyway. Best decision I've ever made since being here."

Lauren Reynolds

MANRRS Student Spotlight

Lauren Reynolds
Hospitality Management & Tourism Junior

Hometown: Detroit, MI

MANRRS Office: Fundraising Co-Chair

How has MANRRS benefited you?
Through MANRRS I have been able to meet my best friends here at UK. I have also been able to make connections that I'm not sure I would have gotten had I not joined.
Dr. Michael Goodin uses his diverse experiences to shape his teaching and classroom activities. “I lean heavily on a childhood experience of “green oranges” which is related to the fact that oranges grown near the equator do not turn orange when ripe, they remain green. They are however, in all other aspects of taste and nutrition, indistinguishable from orange oranges, grown in temperate climates. Discussion around this topic on oranges soon gets us to the point that oranges, like humans, should “not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

In a dramatic expansion of his dedication to instruction, in collaboration with Dr. David Gonthier in the Entomology Department, they have launched a coffee course (GEN 300-005). The subject of the course is personally relevant to many students, they will explore the geography, economics, agriculture, sociology, chemistry, and gastronomy related to coffee. Read Full Spotlight Here.

Alumni Spotlight

Christien Russell | Mississippi State University
Agriculture & Extension Education, Ph.D. Candidate
Hometown: Louisville, KY

Christien is a Ph.D. candidate at Mississippi State University finishing her degree in Agriculture and Extension Education. She is currently serving in her 3rd term as the Region III Graduate Student Vice President for MANRRS. In Spring 2019 Christien was selected as a fellow with the USDA in the Office of Civil Rights (OASCR). In her role with OASCR she is the special assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary. Through this fellowship, Christien has been able to marry her policy, analytical, community development, and diversity expertise to create various programs for USDA employees and initiatives to assist minority farmers and foster diversity and inclusion within USDA.

Christien’s research is rooted in Cultural Competency and how Culturally Responsive Teaching can be implemented at the university. After graduating from UK with a degree in Community and Leadership Development in 2014, she attended Auburn University for her Master’s in Public Administration. Christien’s research interests are in diversity and inclusion, cultural competency, public policy, and culturally responsive teaching techniques.
Join us March 19-20, 2020 for the Universities Fighting World Hunger (UFWH) Summit 2020 hosted by the University of Kentucky. Students, administrators, faculty, staff and hunger activists are invited to attend this 15th anniversary event in Lexington, Kentucky. Join universities around the world as we gain inspiration from leaders fighting hunger, and leave with on-campus, domestic, and global hunger solutions.

Learn more at www.uky.edu/summit2020.
The Kentucky Cooperative Extension Diversity Award nominations are OPEN. Since 1994, we have been able to recognize Extension professionals who, through targeted efforts, excelled in reaching diverse clientele. This is a joint award open to Kentucky State University and University of Kentucky Extension Employees.

The UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment’s Office of Diversity will assist in the award recognition. Those chosen for the award will receive a plaque and a program monetary award of $500 (individual) and $1,000 (team) to use in their county/department to continue diversity efforts.

Nominations will be evaluated for outstanding accomplishments in achieving and sustaining diversity and pluralism in Kentucky Extension. Nominations are for accomplishments during October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2019. The program nominated could have started before October 1, 2018, but it must have also been ongoing during the period October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019. **Nominations are due via email CAFEDIVERSITY@LSV.UKY.EDU by January 10, 2020.**

Other forms of supporting materials, such as video tapes, newspaper clippings, or publications, will not be accepted or considered in the review process.

Please Find the 2019 Nomination Form [Here](#)