

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Members of the media may contact Jeannette Rea-Keywood of the Rutgers 4-H Youth Development Program by phone at 609-898-0928, ext. 11 or by email at [reakeywood@njaes.rutgers.edu](mailto:reakeywood@njaes.rutgers.edu).

**NEW JERSEY 4-H MEMBERS TO ATTEND NATIONAL 4-H CITIZENSHIP CONFERENCE**

Thirty 4-H members have been selected to represent New Jersey at the 2016 Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF) Conference. This conference, now in its 57<sup>th</sup> year, will be held July 10-16 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Citizenship Washington Focus is a 4-H leadership program for high school youth. Delegations from across the country attend this six-day program at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center, located just outside Washington, D.C. The program is aimed at enriching young people's lives by broadening their appreciation and respect for themselves and others in the world. Participants attend workshops, committee meetings, field trips and social events, giving them hands-on opportunities to learn and grow. They learn and practice skills that will make them better citizens and more successful individuals.

During the week, program participants will also have the opportunity to visit local Washington, D.C. landmarks including the Capitol, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, Presidential and war monuments and memorials, as well as Smithsonian museums.

The delegates representing 12 counties attending this year's conference are:

- Atlantic County: Alexis Mathis
- Bergen County: Dustin Glynn
- Burlington County: Gabrielle Bibus, Emilie Matznick, and Morgan Puglisi
- Cumberland: Kaylynn Hyson, Jacob Newkirk, and Ryan Rugenus
- Essex: Victoria Bruno
- Gloucester County: Zebediah Reale and Shyanna Thomason
- Hunterdon County: Olivia Arena, Morgan Krupa, Rebecca Merriken, Natalie Piparo, Tatiana Puluchowski, Jessica Rountree, and Alexandra Snyder
- Mercer County: Nate Byrnes and Adeline Ripberger
- Middlesex County: Neha Komatreddy, Thanmayee Maddipati, and Lesley Martinez-Garcia
- Morris County: Elizabeth Kaufmann and Clayton Zdroik
- Salem County: Toni Baker and Sarah Sharp
- Somerset County: Kirsten Clerico, Kara Johnson, and William Staats

"The conference provides opportunities for young people to identify individual citizenship rights and responsibilities; identify issues facing youth and explore causes and possible solutions; establish communication with law makers; and witness government in action" says Jeannette Rea Keywood, 4-H Agent, Department of 4-H Youth Development.

The 4-H Youth Development Program is part of Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station -Cooperative Extension, 4-H educational programs are offered to all youth, grades K-13, on an age-appropriate basis, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait, marital status, domestic partnership status, military service, veteran status, and any other category protected by law. For more information about the New Jersey 4-H Program visit the 4-H website at <http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/>.

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