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NEWS RELEASE

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.

NEW JERSEY 4-H'ERS DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS AT LEADERSHIP WASHINGTON FOCUS CONFERENCE

Eighteen New Jersey 4-H members are ready to take on the challenges of leadership after experiencing the vibrant, living classroom of the nation's capital as part of Leadership Washington Focus (LWF), an intensive 4-H leadership development program for middle-school youth held July 18-22 at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

The New Jersey delegates who attended the conference were: Moira Christina Lumley and MacKenzie Esposito from Atlantic County; Amber Densten and Brennadette Beebe from Burlington County; Emily Perez from Camden County; Samantha Downes from Cape May County; Luke Nestler from Cumberland County; Grayson Link of Gloucester County; Sarah Hoplock from Mercer County; Shawn Hill and Carla Rios from Monmouth County; Sage Sedlacek and Brandon Taylor-Roach Passaic County; Mikaela Gieswein and Alaina Murphy from Salem County; Megan Norz and Elijah Staats from Somerset County; and Williams Teitsma of Sussex County.

LWF provided 4-H members from across the country with the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC and participate in experiential learning that develops and enhances leadership competency in the four key areas of critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and confidence; preparing youth to return home and lead the way toward positive changes in their own communities.

"Leadership Washington Focus provided a valuable learning experience for New Jersey 4-H Members. Our delegation met 4-H members from California and Ohio as well as listened to motivational speakers and participated in workshops that developed communication skills, increased leadership capacity and built lifetime skills" 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/>. Like New Jersey 4-H on Facebook.

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