

2/1/2025

GLASE Consortium Launches E-GROW Certification for Youth

Dr. Sean Campbell

The GLASE consortium announced the creation of a new workforce development initiative, funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), with the hopes of inspiring youth to gain competencies in the fields of agtech and CEA. The Empowering Greenhouse Resiliency with an Optimized Workforce (E-GROW) project will have seven project collaborators alongside 10 middle and high schools, bridging the gap between agriculture, technology and the next generation of STEM students.

Starting in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Wyoming, the program plans to reach 500 to 1,000 students with an emphasis on historically underrepresented populations.

“Whether or not a student ultimately pursues a career in CEA, we believe this project can be a useful springboard for getting students engaged in plant science, engineering and computer science,” stated Dr. Neil Mattson, Professor at Cornell University.

Participating students will work towards a CEA certification, and long-term the program is designed to evolve as project partners develop and refine an educational model that can be used to help it grow the certification into a national CEA workforce credentialing program.

For more, visit glase.org.