

# ASPIRE

## *Student Leadership Program*

### Community Based Project Requirements

#### Project Purpose

This project is designed to engage students in addressing real-world rural challenges while developing leadership, advocacy, and problem-solving skills. Each student will work with a community mentor to identify an issue, contribute to an initiative, and document the impact.

#### Project Requirements

##### 1. Identify a Rural Issue

- Choose a challenge affecting your local community related to agriculture, rural development, or economic sustainability.

##### 2. Engage with the Community

- Collaborate with a local leader, mentor, or organization to gather insights and implement your project.
- Meet with your mentor at least twice for guidance and feedback.
- Either create a new project plan or contribute to an existing community effort.
- Ensure your involvement supports meaningful progress and measurable outcomes.

##### 3. Document Your Work

- Keep track of steps taken, challenges faced, and community engagement efforts.
- Collect data, testimonials, or observations that demonstrate the project's impact.

##### 4. Submit a Final Report

- Summarize your project's purpose, participation, outcomes, and reflections.
- A final paper or portfolio will be accepted as documentation.
- Must be approved by a faculty member before submission.

#### Important Deadlines & Expectations

- Project must be completed during the **Fall 2025 semester**
- Project outlines must be submitted for approval by **October 15, 2025**
- Students will submit final report/portfolio/presentation of work by **December 31, 2025**.
- Failure to complete the project will result in ineligibility to attend the Outlook Forum in Washington D.C. in February 2026
- Examples of projects include, but are not limited to, participating in the planning of a community event, providing a community service project, conducting a community needs assessment or teaching agriculture lessons to local elementary students.

#### Support & Resources

- Advisors and mentors will provide guidance.
- Webinars and leadership sessions will offer additional insights.
- Networking opportunities will help expand project impact.

*This is your chance to make a real difference in your rural community while building leadership and advocacy skills. Take initiative, be creative, and leave a lasting impact!*