



# CALS Academic Programs Pilot Workshop Series

**ANYA WORK**

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COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES  
**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**  
VIRGINIA TECH.

# Retention: A Starting Point

# Communication

- **How do students currently interact with our office?**
- **Increase communication touchpoints with students after change of major became electronic**
- **How do we connect students to resources and opportunities?**
- **Programming to support engagement and sense of belonging**

# Building on Existing Efforts

- We don't want to duplicate efforts
- What are existing efforts we can build on?
  - First Year Experience course
  - Office of Undergraduate Research
  - Career and Professional Development

# Data Mining

# TeamDynamix

- Helped us analyze trends in retention

- New major

- Class standing

- Race

- Ethnicity

- Gender

- GPA

# College Major Entry and Exit Surveys

- **Students receive a survey when they change their major**
- **Students provide feedback for areas of improvement**
  - **Students wanted more information on career exploration**

# Feedback from Advisors

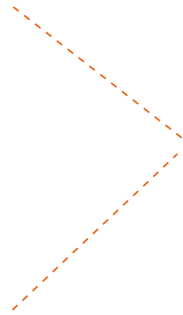
- **Met with advisors during monthly meeting about areas of improvement**
  - **Students need more information on searching for and obtaining internships and undergraduate research opportunities**



# Career Exploration Workshops

# Planning & Structure of the Workshops

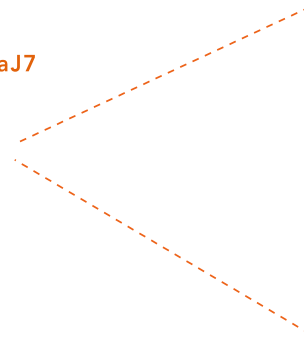
- **The committee: CALSAP, college advisors, students, Career and Professional Development, and Office of Undergraduate Research**
- **Wanted to avoid presentation-based events**
- **How can we promote the workshops?**



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Please RSVP using the link below:

<https://forms.gle/zXFAvfutB86jCmaJ7>



# Planning & Structure of the Workshops

- **Three workshops on career exploration**
- **Workshops were comprised of panels, tabling, and informal networking opportunities**
- **Workshops were scheduled for an hour and 15 minutes**
- **Between 40-60 attendees**
- **Students submitted questions before the workshops**

# **Life After Your First Year: Make the Most of Your College Experience**

- Panel of junior and seniors nominated by advisors**
- Peers and programming**
- Career and Professional Development, Office of Undergraduate Research, and college student ambassadors were available after the panel**

# **Navigating Career Opportunities: CALSA Alumni Share Their Journey**

- **CALSA Alumni Organization led efforts for second workshop**
- **Ensured as many majors as possible were represented on alumni panel**
- **Variety of careers represented based on student feedback**
- **Following panel, students continued their conversations with alumni**

# **CALS Undergraduate Research: Meet the Professors**

- **Students were unsure about how to approach professors concerning undergraduate research**
- **Faculty and student success**
- **Opportunity to interact with professors outside of the classroom**
- **Following panel, students continued conversations with faculty and the Office of Undergraduate Research**

# Lessons Learned & Future Directions

- **Opportunity for students from across the college to engage as community**
- **How can we reach a wider audience?**
- **Recording the workshops**
- **What other topics are helpful?**
- **The importance of a layered approach**