

My name is Garrett Brockwell, and I am a senior at Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University studying Environmental Horticulture. My interest in agriculture was fostered by volunteering at Shalom Farms, a non-profit that grows vegetables for food deserts in the inner city of Richmond, VA. Through the support of my family I was able to volunteer on a weekly basis for my entire high school career. During that time, I had a garden that was large enough to start and support a CSA for three years. I have been a member of the Virginia Association of Biological Farmers for the past seven years. After starting at Virginia Tech, I became a member of the Horticulture Club in addition to continuing my membership with VABF. The educational environment at Virginia Tech has enabled me to not only learn more about the cultivation of plants, but it has also introduced me to a vast community that is willing to not only learn but also support and teach the next generation. After graduation, I intend to return home and start my own fruit and vegetable farm with the goal of passing on my knowledge to my local region in central Virginia. I greatly appreciate the Southeast Top Agricultural Recruits Scholarship and the opportunity to gain insight and understanding of the Mid-Atlantic agriculture landscape.