Confluence of Four Leadership Programs Coalesces Impact From 3 States & 8 Countries

RULE Class XVII Maximizes Study Institute Experience

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The Pennsylvania Rural-Urban Leadership Program (RULE) hosted a charter international and tri-state Study Institute in Washington, DC in March of 2019. Extension-based Leadership Programs in Delaware, Virginia & Pennsylvania as well as Nuffield Farming Scholars International (made up of Scholars from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA, South America, Zimbabwe, UK, Ireland and the Netherlands) gathered for a 3-day event. The cohort totaled over 100 people.

The group was honored to tour the Pentagon along with the highest ranked presentation of the Study Institute by Admiral James Kilby, USN. The group then visited the United States Department of Agriculture (Pennsylvania State Director - Curt Coccodrilli, Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations - Ken Barbic, Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation - Bill Northeys & Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs - Ted McKinney). Ultimately the PA and Delaware program were invited to East Wing of White House by RULE Alum Melanie Baber, House Policy Advisor, Office of Legislative Affairs. There was Q&A at all events.

“The reception was an excellent idea. It was nice to interact with folks from other countries to see what kinds of projects they are working on and what agriculture is like in their country.”

“We explored international voices of agriculture, made connections and recognize the international role of agriculture in our respective home bases.”

“Incredible opportunity to meet with one of the US Navy’s top-ranked and well-respected officers. Great example of a military Admiral who demonstrates the importance of taking the time to get to know their employees personally and professionally to better relate to their needs and achieve the agency’s mission and goals.”

RULE XVII Scholar