CALS Peer Leader Program 2015  
Ut Prosim with a Focus on Our College!

What Is It?
The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) is looking for returning students to serve as mentors for incoming students. We refer to those mentors as “peer leaders” because they help provide direction for fellow students as they transition to life in college. Specifically, the peer leaders have three primary responsibilities:

1) Welcome, orient, and mentor first-year students as they transition to life at Virginia Tech and in CALS.
2) Provide feedback and assist student groups with managing their assignments for ALS 1234: CALS First Year Seminar course.
3) Facilitate the interdisciplinary group project.

The primary commitment is during Fall semester, attending weekly meetings of the ALS 1234 class, Mondays, 4-5PM. The group of peer leaders will also meet regularly to discuss issues that arise and plan for upcoming activities. This will be the fifth year for the program. We anticipate several changes from last year, and we look forward to enhancing the role of our peer leaders.

Why Do It?
This is a great way to engage the university’s challenge of Ut Prosim and gain valuable leadership experience for the future. Although the focus is on serving the first-year and transfer students, there are clear resume-building benefits for the peer leaders. For all those who participate 1 hr academic credit (ALS 2974 credit, independent study) will be given. The peer leaders will be graded on their leadership qualities and they will be assigned quizzes as well. Serving as a peer leader is likely to be a good developmental opportunity. One of the peer leaders from 2011 commented, “I can say this exercise was a learning experience for all of us.”

How Do I Apply?
This opportunity is open to all rising Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences who have a 2.3 GPA or higher and will be able to attend the ALS 1234 class during Fall semester. The class will be meeting on Mondays, 4-5PM. To express your interest in serving as a peer leader, please complete the survey at https://virginiatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1yLTXp4BFVNUywt

Who Do I Contact for More Information?
Peer leaders are being selected by individual departments with a role in the program. To learn more, you may contact the department most closely aligned with your academic program. Contacts include:

- Agricultural and Applied Economics – Frenda Haynie (fwall@vt.edu, 231-6846)
- Agricultural Sciences – Dr. Eric Kaufman (ekaufman@vt.edu, 231-6258)
- Animal and Poultry Sciences – Dr. Cindy Wood (piglady@vt.edu, 231-6937)
- Crop and Soil Environmental Science – Dr. Ozzie Abaye (cotton@vt.edu, 231-9737)
- Dairy Science – Dr. Katherine Knowlton (knowlton@vt.edu, 231-5287)
- Food Science and Technology – Linda Granata (igranata@vt.edu, 231-9570)
- Horticulture – Dr. Alex Niemiera (niemiera@vt.edu, 231-6723)
- Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise – Renee Selberg-Eaton (rselberg@vt.edu, 231-5987)
- Life Sciences Undecided – Dr. Susan Sumner (sumners@vt.edu, 231-6503)