

Savannah River Ecology Laboratory Aiken, South Carolina

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Kule joins SREL as pollinator educator

Aiken, SC – Katie Kule has joined the outreach staff of the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory as a pollinator educator for the "Let's Grow Together" program.

"Let's Grow Together" will educate K-12 students on the significant role pollinators play in growing plants and producing food, enhance the STEM curriculum in area schools and give students outdoor hands-on experiences.

Kule said students will develop gardens with edible plants that attract pollinators like ants, bees, butterflies and birds.

The program launched in June at the Quest Zone's summer program at East Aiken Elementary School of the Arts.

Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, the program will also reach students at Tall Pines STEM Academy, Oakwood-Windsor Elementary and the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Aiken County.

Kule will also recruit community partner organizations with the goal of increasing the program's reach.

Kule graduated from the University of South Carolina Aiken with a bachelor's degree in anthropology and biology.

She has received extensive training in organic gardening in the U.S. and Europe. Kule has collaborated with farmers and consumers to convey culinary and nutritional needs to bridge the gaps from the farm to the table. Kule previously worked at Aiken Organics, an online farmer's market.

SREL serves as USDA Forest Service-Savannah River's lead partner in the program. Additional partners are the City of Aiken Energy and Environmental Committee and SC Educational Television Learningwhy.org.

During the school year, the curriculum for the program will be made available to teachers on the SC ETV's website.

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