

CULTIVATING CAREERS:

PLANT-BASED SKILLS AND CREDENTIALS SUMMIT

Earn Credentials Today. Grow Opportunities Tomorrow.



**Mercer County
Community College
West Windsor Campus**



**Friday,
October 9, 2026**



**9:00 am -
5:00 pm**



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Cultivating Careers: Plant-Based Skills and Credentials Summit will give high school students the opportunity to explore careers in the horticulture industry while earning an industry-recognized credential. Hosted at Mercer County Community College - West Windsor Campus, this hands-on career development experience is designed to help students turn their interest in plants into real-world skills and career opportunities. Students will select one of four specialized tracks and, through a combination of required pre-work and hands-on coursework completed during the summit, leave the event with a credential they can add to their résumé and use as they pursue employment, further education, or careers in the plant industry.

The learning doesn't stop in the classroom. Students will also participate in a career fair featuring employers and industry professionals giving them the chance to learn about career pathways, ask questions, build professional connections, and discover what opportunities are available beyond high school. Whether students are already interested in a plant-based career or simply want to explore where their skills and interests could take them, Cultivating Careers provides a unique opportunity to learn, earn, and connect, all in one day!

Storm Water Management

Ready to design a greener future? In this track, you'll explore green infrastructure, sustainable landscaping, and native plants with the Watershed Institute's Green Infrastructure. Gain real-world skills in design and analysis while learning how sustainable landscapes can combat climate change, restore ecosystems, and protect waterways. Complete the course and earn the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Associate Certification. Turn your passion for the environment into hands-on skills in landscape design and help create a more sustainable future!

Junior Certified Nursery Landscape Professional

Spend the day with members of the New Jersey Nursery and Landscape Association (NJNLA) in a student-focused version of their Certified Nursery and Landscape Professional program. Learn practical skills in plant identification, plant care, soils, pest management, and more. Successfully complete the course and earn an NJNLA industry credential to add to your résumé and show employers you have the knowledge and skills to succeed in the nursery and landscape industry. Explore a growing career field and leave with skills you can put to work!

Beekeeping Essentials

Bees play a critical role in agriculture, and successful beekeeping starts with understanding the hive. In this track, members of the NJ Beekeepers Association will introduce you to honey bee biology, hive equipment, seasonal colony management, pest management, honey harvesting, and more. You'll also get hands-on experience conducting a hive inspection. Have your own protective gear? Bring it along! No gear? No problem—protective equipment will be provided. Leave with practical beekeeping skills and a better understanding of how honey bees support agriculture.

Lessons in Hydroponics

Discover how innovative hydroponic growing systems are transforming the future of food production. This track introduces participants to the science of growing fresh, healthy food in soilless, controlled environments while exploring careers in agriculture, sustainability, and food technology. Learn from industry professionals about year-round food production, food safety, and food security, and gain practical knowledge about the technology behind modern hydroponic systems. Earn a Certificate of Completion recognizing your participation and newly acquired knowledge.



MERCER
COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**REGISTRATION IS DUE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2026**

Register Here

<https://form.jotform.com/NJFFA/cultivatingcareers>



NJ PATHWAYS
TO CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
Aligning Education to Build an Innovative Workforce