

# Andrew College

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Andrew College's Professor Nataliya Apanovich brings community garden to area**

CUTHBERT, GA. – Nataliya Apanovich joined the Andrew College faculty in August 2018 and teaches courses in the Sustainable Agriculture program. As Professor Apanovich got to know the area, she discovered charm and collegiality and then asked herself what part she could play in preserving the integrity of the area.

“I wanted to bring awareness to the advantages of healthy eating and to develop a collaboration between the community and Andrew College. To help with this, I chose to be a grower and now grow vegetables in Andrew’s Community Garden,” Apanovich said.

The Community Garden currently contains eight raised beds planted with hardy (cold tolerant) vegetables and a couple of herbs. The garden relies entirely on student, faculty and community volunteers to maintain the garden by weeding, watering, transplanting and mulching. Working in the garden involves comradery, work and education.

“There is no better way for parents to teach their young children about how vegetables grow and where they come from than working together in a garden. They can also learn how easy it is to produce food that is good for the body and mind. But most importantly, people learn that having access to healthy, nutritious and ethically produced food is a basic human right, and that we can create that right by creating our own gardens,” Apanovich remarked.

“Some of my students completed their end-of-semester volunteer projects by working in the garden. They all learned something. Some were not aware how much water the plants needed in late summer/early fall. Others learned the importance of mulching the soil. And still others learned the right way to harvest leafy greens. It is so rewarding to see students learn about the world through direct contact with nature.

“My vision for the garden is for it to become part of our community. I hope that area residents will continue expressing their interest in food production and healthy eating by volunteering in the garden. The garden is open to everyone every day and is located across from Old Main on College Street.

“I am also searching for creative ways to deliver our produce to the community. Currently, we have an abundance of lettuce, kale, spinach and dill that are ready to be picked. As the garden grows and improves, so does our community. So let’s garden!”

Apanovich earned her Ph.D. in Sustainable Agriculture and Biorenewable Resources and Technology from Iowa State University. She holds a M.A. in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School, and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of South Carolina. Outside of work, she enjoys drawing with charcoal, playing piano, hiking, biking, and traveling.

If you have suggestions for Professor Apanovich regarding delivering produce to the community, please contact her at [nataliyaapanovich@andrewcollege.edu](mailto:nataliyaapanovich@andrewcollege.edu).

Photo cutline 1: Andrew College’s Professor of Agriculture, Nataliya Apanovich, spent the fall semester creating a Community Garden with her students. The produce is just right for picking.

Photo by Sheri Michaels, permission is granted to print.

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Established in 1854, Andrew College is related to The United Methodist Church and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Situated in the rural southwest Georgia community of Cuthbert, Andrew College offers the Associate of Art, Associate of Music, Associate of Nursing, Associate of Science and Bachelor of Business degrees.