

Statements from Virginia Tech undergraduate research assistants advised by Dr. Jeannie Purchase attesting to her mentorship and commitment to environmental education

Abby Simonipetri: Jeannie is a strong leader and someone I truly look up to. She is extremely organized, passionate about helping her students grow, and thoroughly invested in helping communities through her work. Her passion is both contagious and inspiring.

Ailene Edwards: Jeannie went above and beyond what was expected from her as a mentor. Even after her official 'mentorship' ended, she remained an integral part of my life by guiding me through shifts in career aspirations and forwarding along opportunities. She cares deeply about educating and building the next generation of engineers.

Isabella Lerer: Jeannie completely changed my life. I met her during a time where I was not thriving mentally or academically at VT. Through her guidance and Mentorship, she was able to help me achieve my personal and academic goals. She always made sure we knew she was there for us for whatever we needed. She taught us to question everything, and to make sure we knew thoroughly the science behind the experiments. She didn't just give you instructions and tell you to run something, instead she made sure we understood why we were doing what we were doing and that always kept all of the undergrads engaged and informed.

Jesika McDaniel: Jeannie encapsulates the meaning of true mentorship and leadership. Being under her wing, I have witnessed her endure many trials to reach success but still is devoted to uplifting others. Jeannie is a true inspiration to many and has empowered me to be the strong, intelligent, brave black woman.

Joseph Hector: Jeannie went above and beyond what was expected from her as a mentor. Even after her official 'mentorship' ended, she remained an integral part of my life by guiding me through shifts in career aspirations and forwarding along opportunities. She cares deeply about educating and building the next generation of engineers.

Paighton Vanzant: Jeannie Purchase is one of a kind. I have never met an educator or mentor that has the qualities she does. She has impacted her mentees more than she knows.

Natalie Stone: I am writing to express my admiration and gratitude for Jeannie Purchase. As a mentor, she created experiential learning opportunities that challenged, motivated, and enabled growth. Her dedication to the environment and wisdom has empowered my own goals in the environmental field.

Sarah Loomis: Jeannie was the most inspiring mentor I had in college - she brought me under her wing as a freshman despite my lack of experience and taught me how to work in both lab and field environments, how to communicate about scientific research, and most importantly taught me the value of my own intellect.

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