

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MARCH 6, 2019**

## **The Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences Magnet at North Harford High School Awarded \$3,000 Grant from Martin Marietta**

*Grant money will be used to support the new Natural Resources Aquaculture Raise and Research Project*

Martin Marietta has awarded the Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences (NRAS) Magnet at North Harford High School a \$3,000 grant to support the magnet program's new Natural Resources Aquaculture Raise and Research project.

Representatives from Martin Marietta presented the check to Gregory Murrell, program specialist; Nate Epple, NRAS student; and Howard Eakes, assistant supervisor of science for Harford County Public Schools, at North Harford High School on March 6.

The goal of the project is to design aquaculture educational opportunities for the high school students in the NRAS program. Aquaculture, which is the business of farming aquatic plants and animals, is becoming an integral part of the Maryland agricultural economy.

In order to fully prepare for careers in aquaculture, the NRAS students need additional supplies to support research to reestablishing trout to local streams. The grant will be used to purchase aquaculture pump supplies, water quality supplies, a chiller, transportation coolers, and fish, the needed items to create an appropriate habitat and raising facility.

The students will use the items purchased with the grant money to develop a trout run and breeding tank in the aquaculture research lab. The research lab will be utilized not only by the NRAS students, but will also be available to biology, chemistry, environmental science, marine science, and zoology classes at North Harford High School.

North Harford High students participating in aquaculture studies will gain knowledge in sustainable energy and aquatic plants and animals and participate in laboratory projects that will help prepare them in pursuing a post-secondary degree in aquaculture.

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