

Alexa & D'Angelo Reflect on One Year at NRP



From Cynthia Wallace <info@newruralproject.org>
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New RURAL PROJECT

Dear Steve:

It's hard to believe it's been a little over a year since we announced that our new Program Director, Alexa Roberts, and our Program Associate, D'Angelo Gatewood, had joined New Rural Project. We are so happy that they both recently celebrated their first anniversary with us as we strive to engage and empower rural voters of color. We are so proud that their great work led to the launch of our Barbershop Conversations series, multiple other programs and expansion of our social media presence!

**HELP US ADD MORE GREAT LEADERS
LIKE ALEXA & D'ANGELO TO THE NRP TEAM!**

Below, Alexa and D'Angelo share their thoughts about their first year at New Rural Project.



Alexa: *Looking back on the past 12 months, I am so proud of the work I've been part of with the New Rural Project in our focus counties. Through establishing strong community connections and partnering with trusted local organizations, we have been able to engage in meaningful conversations with rural citizens about important issues and challenges, and, most importantly, have been able to celebrate our success.*

We kicked off our **Barbershop Conversations** program in Anson County with purpose and the tone set by the name of the series: **Fruitful African American Discussions on Empowerment** (thanks to D'Angelo for our F.A.D.E. name!). I was delighted that by the end of 2022, we had conducted 13 F.A.D.E. sessions across three programs in three counties and talked with 93 young Black men in Barbershops. I love to tell people about the successes that saw two participants from our Scotland F.A.D.E. appointed to Advisory Boards in their communities within a month of learning about vacant positions at a Scotland F.A.D.E. session and have been thrilled to support the organizing work of three participants who formed a civic action organization, Sandhills Voter Initiative, after attending our very first Anson F.A.D.E. series.

This busy year included launching multiple other conversations series: **Young People's Conversations**, **Topical Conversations**, and **Candidate Conversations**. All of our "Conversations" with our rural neighbors have been enlightening, inspiring, and energizing, and I look forward to bringing the F.A.D.E. to the rest of our focus counties, reconnecting with our past program participants, and expanding our reach to include women in these important discussions.



D'Angelo: As someone who is from rural North Carolina, I love being a part of an organization that recognizes the potential of my fellow rural community members, even as a part-time employee. Rural communities are more than just farms - they are a complex network of people that have unique opportunities and challenges.

My work with New Rural Project, which has extended well-beyond what I originally thought, has pushed me to explore the systemic and political issues that affect equity throughout the state. This push to dig deeper led me to shift my focus toward opportunities within government, education, and healthcare in my full-time job in order to better understand the current climate and become a stronger equity advocate.

Everyone here at New Rural Project is so excited about how much Alexa and D'Angelo have contributed to New Rural Project's successes in 2022. [Please help us support the expansion of our programming work by making a \\$25 investment today!](#)

Expanding their work and adding more exceptional team members will allow us to make an even greater impact on Rural North Carolina in 2023 and beyond.

Thank you for supporting our efforts.

Cynthia Wallace
Executive Director
New Rural Project



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