



AMES IN ACTION

JUNE 2024



AMES RESEARCH CENTER RECEIVES HONOR AT ANNUAL SUICIDE PREVENTION SUMMIT



WHAT DID AMES DO?

The AMES Research Center recently co-hosted the 2024 Let's Connect Summit, which took place on June 24-25, 2024 at Callaway Gardens. This event focused on enhancing suicide prevention among Georgia's military service members, veterans, and family members. Summit co-hosts, the Georgia Department of Veteran Services, presented AMES with the "Making a Difference" Award, a plaque adorned with starfish.

WHAT DO THE STARFISH ON THE AWARD REPRESENT?

Calandra Ferguson, the GDVS Suicide Prevention and Outreach Coordinator, described the significance of the award with a story. She said, "a military service member is walking along the beach, throwing beached starfish back into the ocean. A grumpy passerby says 'you'll never make a difference.' The service member smiles, throws one starfish back into the ocean, and says proudly "I just made one difference." The award represents how small steps can lead to big impacts in our communities.

HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



JOIN THE TASK FORCE

The Georgia Suicide Prevention Task Force aims to prevent suicide among Georgia's military service members, veterans, and their families. They provide education and training, reduce stigma, increase access to services, promote community outreach, and increase peer support. Joining the Task Force is a small individual action that will lead to a big impact!



JOIN A PRIORITY GROUP

The Georgia Suicide Prevention Task Force has four priority groups: Ask the Question, Connectedness, Lethal Means Safety, and Faith-Based Partnerships. Joining a priority group is a great way to implement more focused individual action for a big collective impact! Email calandra.fergerson@vs.ga.gov to join the Task Force or a priority group.