

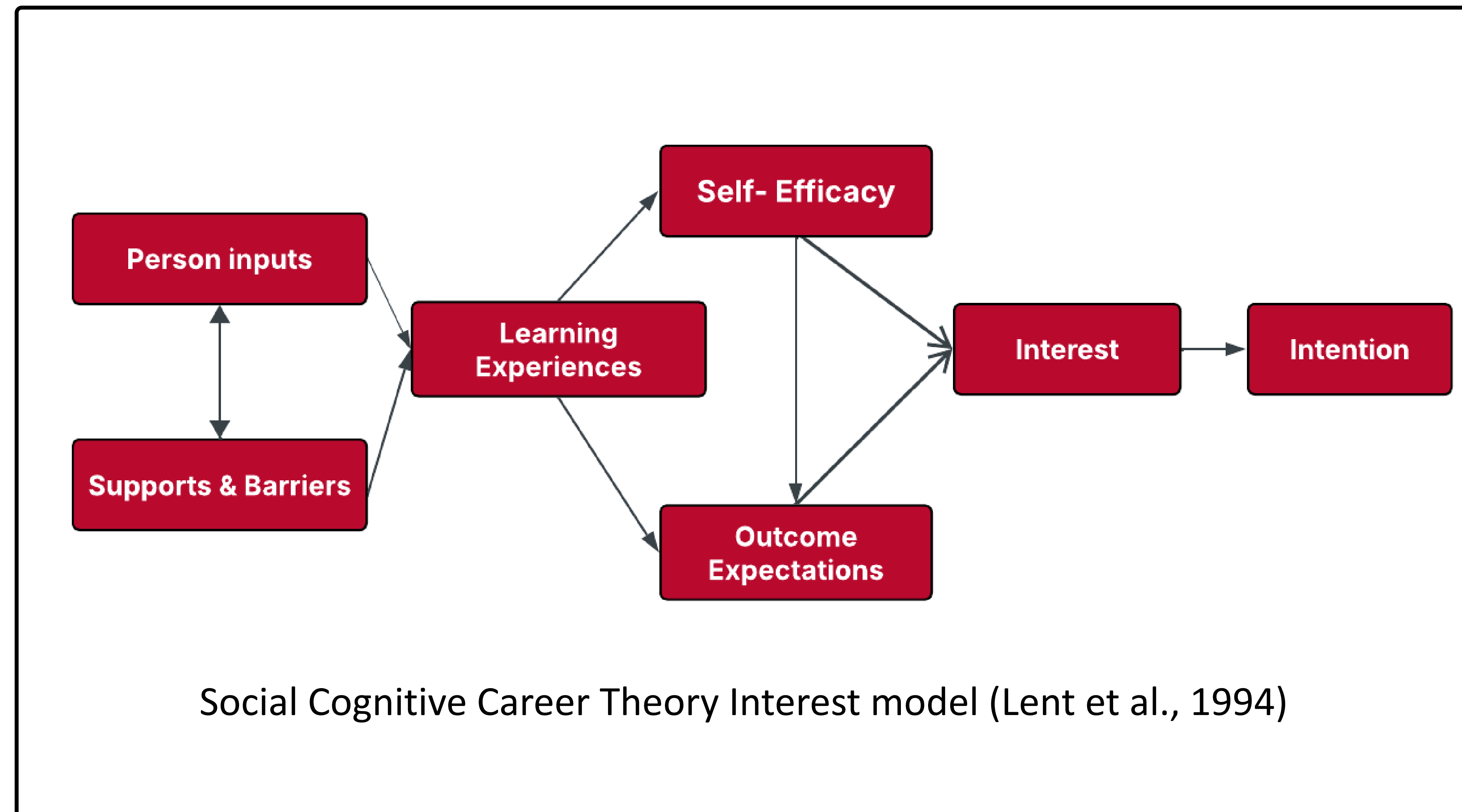
Assessing emerging adults' career interests and intentions toward commercial urban agriculture in Florida

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Introduction

- Rising concerns over global food security and agricultural sustainability
- Aging farmer crisis and limited involvement of youth in agriculture
- Urbanization reducing rural farmland and local production & increasing strain on urban food systems.
- Increasing prospects for Commercial Urban Agriculture (CUA) in Florida
- Opportunity to engage emerging adults (18–25) living in urban areas & strengthening agriculture in urban environments

Theoretical Framework



Methodology

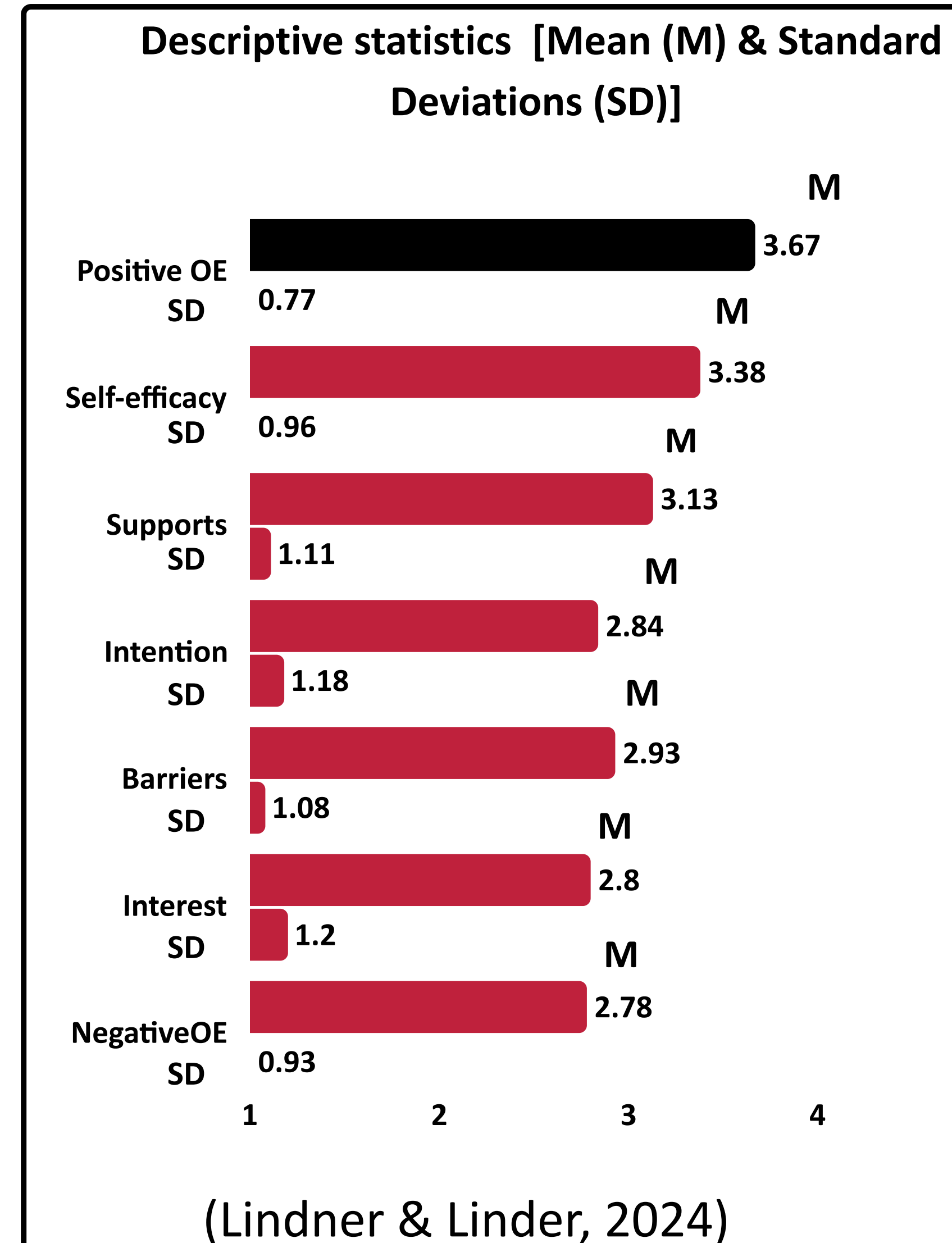
- Purposive sampling + quota sampling
- Emerging adults, study-defined urban counties in Florida (N = 214)
- Adapted and modified survey items
- Instrument validity- Expert Panelists
- Reliability - Pilot testing (N = 169)
- University of Florida IRB approval secured before data collection
- Data analysis- Descriptive statistical analyses to assess SCCT variables, interest, and intentions to pursue careers in CUA
- Multiple linear regression analysis

Research Objectives

The primary objectives of the study were :

1. Assess emerging adults' self-efficacy, outcome expectations, supports, and barriers to pursue careers in CUA
2. Assess emerging adults' interests and intentions to pursue careers in CUA
3. Evaluate the relationship between emerging adults' self-efficacy, outcome expectations, supports and barriers, and interest to pursue careers in CUA
4. Evaluate the relationship between emerging adults' self-efficacy, outcome expectations, supports and barriers, interest, and intentions to pursue careers in CUA

Results



Interest in CUA Careers:

- SCCT variables explained **67.1% of the variance**
- (F(5,208)=84.79, p<.001, R²=.671)
- Significant predictors: Supports (B=.523), Self-Efficacy (B=.501), **Negative Outcome Expectations** (B=.010)

Intention to pursue CUA Careers:

- SCCT variables (with interest) explained **81.2% of the variance**
- (F(6, 207)=149.28, p <.001, R² = .812)
- Significant predictors: **Interest** (B= .755), Self-Efficacy (B= .185)

Implications/Recommendations

- Exploratory findings inform Extension professionals, agricultural educators, and urban agriculture advocates preparing the next generation of agriculturists
- Neutral interest and intention toward CUA careers may reflect limited access to supportive learning experiences, aiding in self-efficacy
- Extension interventions should prioritize supports such as training, education, and skill-building opportunities to increase confidence among emerging adults
- Educational and school-based agricultural programs should incorporate hands-on experiences (e.g., urban farm visits, internships)
- Outreach and educational programs should emphasize positive prospects of working in CUA



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