

## CALL FOR INTERNSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Water Resources and Policy Initiatives is pleased to announce the call for applications for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-funded Water Resources Experiential Learning for USDA Careers Internship Program for the 2016-2017 year. Contingent upon continued funding, this Program provides paid Water Resources Internships (50 per year) for full-time students that are enrolled at any of the 23 California State University (CSU) campuses and 113 California Community Colleges (CCC). The objective of this collaborative Program is to measurably increase the encouragement, retention, graduation, and USDA career attainment of underrepresented CSU/CCC students while increasing student research skills that ensure our national forests and private working lands are conserved, restored, and made more resilient to climate change, while simultaneously enhancing the sustainability of the Nation's water resources.

The Program targets students *underrepresented* in the USDA workforce, currently defined for this Program as Hispanic, Native American, Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander, and disabled; however all ethnicities are welcome to apply. Applicants should have a sincere interest in working for the USDA. The internships are available for undergraduate and graduate students that are majoring in the following disciplines:

- Water Science/Water Resources (including Water Quality and Watershed Management); especially those disciplines involving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) that support the above water disciplines
- Environmental Sciences/Management
- Conservation, Renewable Energy and Natural Resources (includes Forestry and Ecology/Wetlands)
- Related Biological Sciences (includes General/Basic Biotechnology, Biochemistry, and Microbiology)
- Plant Sciences and Horticulture (including Turf Sciences)
- Agricultural/Biological Engineering
- Agricultural Social Science
- Soil Science
- Others as appropriate

These experiential learning internships should be focused on natural resource and water-related activities and the applicants should propose a project with an advisor from their campus, USDA agency, state or local agencies, or other approved organization.

Since this is a USDA-funded Program, priority will be given to applications that propose an internship with a USDA agency, especially the Natural Resources Conservation

Service, Forest Service, and Agricultural Resource Service. **The projects must be completed by September 1, 2017.**

Interns are paid \$4,500 for their project completion, with undergraduates earning \$12.50 per hour for 360 total hours and graduates earning \$15.00 per hour for 300 total hours. The project also provides up to \$560 per student for the purchase of approved supplies and materials. (No single item may exceed \$500.) Interns may also be eligible at a later date for \$20,000 scholarships in furtherance of their Doctorate-level degree in a natural resources or water related discipline.

**Applications will be accepted from Monday, August 1, 2016 through 5 pm Pacific on Sunday, October 2, 2016** and the internships will be awarded approximately the end of December. Additional information on our Program including complete student eligibility requirements, the process for applying, the application form, and other Program-related documents are available on-line at <http://wri.csusb.edu/watershedManagementExperientialLearning.html>.

For more information, contact Christina E. Rodriguez (at 909-537-3615 or [chrodrig@csusb.edu](mailto:chrodrig@csusb.edu)) or Dr. David Zoldoske (at 559-278-2066 or [davidzo@csufresno.edu](mailto:davidzo@csufresno.edu)).