

USDA NIFA AWARD No.2015-38422-24058

Award Title: Water Resources Experiential Learning for USDA Careers

Lead Agency: Cal State San Bernardino University Enterprises Corporation (FF20717)

Award Period: 09/01/15-08/31/19

## **Eligibility Requirements for USDA Water Resources Internships**

To be eligible to apply for and participate in this USDA Water Resources Internship Program, students must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Current full-time student (undergraduate and graduate students) at one of the 23 CSU campuses and 113 CCCs.
- This internship project is funded by the USDA-Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) program. It is intended to provide *underrepresented* students with research project experience in natural resource and water-related activities and to provide greater access to USDA career opportunities. However, all students are welcome to apply.
- U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident
- Employment eligibility status E-Verified
- GPA of 3.0 or higher (please submit your **unofficial** transcripts)
- Students must have sincere interest in working for the USDA, including a commitment to complete required prerequisites for USDA positions.
- UEC employees with prior CalPERS membership- Total number of internship hours will be reduced to allocate for CalPERS contributions.

The Water Resources Internship Program is a collaborative effort between the USDA and the California State University system. The Water Resources and Policy Initiatives (WRPI) at California State San Bernardino (CSUSB) is the lead university for the administration of the internship program.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides funding to the WRPI for students to benefit from experiential learning by participating in a real-world scientific research project, water resources activity, or a watershed management activity in the watersheds located near students' California State Universities or California Community Colleges. Students gain

exposure to career opportunities related to protecting and enhancing the Nation's natural resource base and environment dependent upon the sustainability of local watersheds.

The program is aimed at the retention and graduation of underrepresented students, particularly Hispanic students. Full-time CSU/CCC students with E-Verified employment status are eligible. (E-Verification is conducted by HR upon receipt of completed Form I-9 from student during employment process).

This 4-year Regional Collaboration is aimed at preparing 80% of participants for specific USDA careers within specific USDA agencies, including the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and National Forest Service (NFS). The USDA's natural resource agencies are seeking graduates from populations currently underrepresented in their workforce. In addition to a research project, students will be required to participate in a USDA career identification process that will prepare them for potential careers with the USDA after graduation. This career process will also require the student to participate in semi-annual WRPI data collection surveys while in school and until securing a post-graduation career position.

Primary Disciplines and Subject Matter Areas include:

- 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