



USDA AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FORUM STUDENT DIVERSITY PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

Would you like to attend USDA's 2013 Agricultural Outlook Forum in Washington, DC?

USDA's Agricultural Outlook Forum provides producers, policymakers, business, government, and industry leaders with a unique opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and discuss timely issues at the forefront of America's agriculture. In an effort to increase the present and future diversity of participation in the Forum, USDA created a program that provides sponsorship opportunities for junior and senior baccalaureate students to attend this annual event.

The 2013 Agricultural Outlook Forum will be held February 21-22 in Arlington, Virginia, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel. USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) will host an introductory USDA briefing and discussion of internships and career opportunities on February 19; on February 20 students will tour USDA's Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. The USDA Outlook Forum Diversity Program promotes diverse participation that educates baccalaureate students about agribusiness, the latest research, future trends, and policy in contemporary agriculture.

TARGET: The program targets between 20-24 agriculture, agricultural economics, agricultural communications, agricultural business, or pre-veterinary junior or senior undergraduate students. Students will come from Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources institutions.

SELECTION CRITERIA: Each institution will submit a letter of recommendation for up to two students along with the student's one-page essay titled "Agriculture as a Career." Each institution performs a "pre-selection" process by choosing the two best essays among the applicants for final consideration. Students submit their essays to their respective institution representative (i.e., academic dean/department chair). Institutions then submit their two best essays and recommendations to antonio.mclaren@osec.usda.gov by November 9, 2012.

ESSAY SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 8, 2012: Essays must include student's name, address, phone number, and e-mail. Final selections will be made by Lisa Purnell, USDA's 1890s Program Manager, University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). Two positions are reserved for UMES students.

TRAVEL ITINERARY: Registration, transportation, lodging, and Forum meals are provided for the students. **Students will arrive in Washington, D.C., February 19, 2013, and return home February 22, 2013.**

**2012 Sponsors include: CHS, Inc., Farm Credit System,
and USDA's Economic Research Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service**

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Please visit: www.usda.gov/oce/forum or contact Brenda Chapin, Forum Coordinator, at 202-720-5447 or bchapin@oce.usda.gov.