



USDA AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FORUM STUDENT DIVERSITY PROGRAM

Would you like to attend USDA's 2017 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 participation at the Forum, USDA created a program providing sponsorship opportunities for junior and senior baccalaureate and graduate students to attend this annual event.

The 2017 Agricultural Outlook Forum will be held Feb. 23-24 in Arlington, Virginia, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel. Students will travel to Washington, DC Monday, Feb. 20. Tuesday, Feb. 21, USDA will host a briefing and discussion of career opportunities. Wednesday, Feb. 22, students will tour the Nation's Capital. Thursday and Friday, Feb. 23-24, students attend the Forum. The USDA Outlook Forum Student Diversity Program is designed to expose students to contemporary agribusiness, future trends, scientific research, and agricultural policy in today's real world environment.

TARGET: The program targets 30 agriculture, agricultural business, agricultural economics, communications, nutrition and food science or pre-veterinary junior or senior and graduate students. Students (20 undergraduate and 10 graduate) will come from Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture.

UNDERGRADUATE SELECTION CRITERIA: Students submit an application and one-page essay entitled "Agriculture as a Career" to their respective institution representative (i.e., academic dean or department chair). Each institution performs a "pre-selection" process by choosing the final best two essays among the applicants.

GRADUATE SELECTION CRITERIA: Students submit an application and essay (two-page maximum) entitled "The Greatest Challenge Facing Agriculture Over the Next 5 Years" to their respective institution representative (i.e., academic dean or department chair). Each institution performs a "pre-selection" process by choosing the final best two essays among the applicants.

ESSAY SUBMISSIONS: Schools will submit applications and essays (for both graduate and undergraduate students) to Lisa Purnell (lisa.purnell@osec.usda.gov) along with individual letters of recommendation from the institution's Academic Chair/Dean **by Monday, Nov. 28, 2016**. (Two undergraduate and one graduate position are reserved for University of Maryland Eastern Shore students.) **Essays must include student's name, major, and year in school.** Final selections will be made by Lisa Purnell, 1890 Program Liaison, USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach and Harry Baumes, Director, USDA Office of Energy Policy and New Uses. Applicants must be U.S. citizens enrolled full-time in an academic institution as described above under the **Target** section at the time of application and the Forum.

TRAVEL ITINERARY: Registration, transportation and lodging are provided. Students are asked to bring resources to pay for their baggage fees (if applicable) and meals Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 20-21, and lunch on Wednesday. Forum meals and Wednesday breakfast and dinner are complimentary provided. Students will arrive in Washington, D.C. Monday, Feb. 20, 2017 and return home Friday, Feb. 24, 2017. The winners will be announced in January via the Forum website, press release and blog.

