



## USDA AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK FORUM STUDENT DIVERSITY PROGRAM

### **Would you like to attend USDA's 2016 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 in the Forum, USDA created a program that provides sponsorship opportunities for junior-senior baccalaureate and graduate students to attend this annual event.

**The 2016 Agricultural Outlook Forum will be held Feb. 25-26 in Arlington, Virginia, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel.** Students will travel to Washington on Feb. 22. On Feb. 23, USDA will host a briefing and discussion of career opportunities. On Feb. 24, students will take a tour of Washington, DC. On Feb. 25-26, the students attend the Forum. The USDA Outlook Forum 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 economics, agricultural communications, agricultural business, 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 first submit their one-page essay titled "Agriculture as a Career" to their respective institution representative (i.e., academic dean/department chair). Each institution performs a "pre-selection" process by choosing the final best two essays among the applicants selecting two undergraduate students.

**GRADUATE SELECTION CRITERIA:** Students first submit their essay (2-page maximum) titled "The Greatest Challenge Facing Agriculture Over the Next 5 Years" to their respective institution representative (i.e., academic dean/department chair). Each institution performs a "pre-selection" process by choosing the final best two essays among the applicants.

**ESSAY SUBMISSIONS:** Schools will submit essays (for both graduate and undergraduate students) to Lisa Purnell ([lisa.purnell@osec.usda.gov](mailto:lisa.purnell@osec.usda.gov)) with individual letters of recommendation from the institution's dean by Dec. 11, 2015. (Two undergraduate and one graduate position are reserved for University of Maryland Eastern Shore students.) Essays must include student's name, major, year in school, address, phone number, and e-mail. Final selections will be made by Lisa Purnell, USDA/1890 Program Liaison, University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Harry Baumes, Director, USDA Office of Energy Policy and New Uses. Applicants must be U.S. citizen's enrolled fulltime in an academic institution 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 own meals on Feb. 22-23, and lunch on Wednesday. Forum meals and Wednesday breakfast and dinner are complimentary provided. Students will arrive in Washington, D.C., Feb. 22, 2016, and return home Feb. 26, 2016.