Hello CWE Faculty Associates,

The Water Resources and Policy Initiatives (WRPI) is pleased to announce the call for applications for the 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 CSU campuses and 113 California Community Colleges (CCC). The 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. 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. 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.

The internships are available to undergraduate and graduate students that are majoring in the following disciplines: Water Science/Water Resources (including Water Quality and Watershed Management), Environmental Science/Management, Conservation, Renewable Energy and Natural Resources (includes Forestry and Ecology/Wetlands), Related Biological Sciences (includes General/Basic Biotechnology, Biochemistry, and Microbiology), Plant Science and Horticulture (including Turf Sciences), Agricultural/Biological Engineering, Agricultural Social Science, Soil Science, and other disciplines as appropriate.

Priority will be given to applications that propose an internship with a USDA agency, especially the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Forest Service (FS), and Agricultural Resource Service (ARS). The projects must be completed by September 1, 2017.

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.

Applications will be accepted through 5 p.m. Pacific on Sunday, October 2, 2016 and the internships will be awarded approximately the end of December.

To access the application and for additional information please visit the project website: http://wri.csusb.edu/watershedManagementExperientialLearning.html.

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