

FELLOWS PROGRAM

Announcement for FY 2006
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Program Purposes

The CSREES Fellows Program offers land-grant faculty and staff from selected minority-serving institutions the opportunity to work and study with USDA staff in Washington, D.C. for a period of 3 months (June 1, 2006 - August 31, 2006). The purposes of the program are to: (1) strengthen the land-grant partnership with USDA; (2) enhance the Fellows' professional growth, thereby improving the quality of teaching, extension and/or research programs at the designated institutions; and (3) promote work force diversity.

Participating Institutions

The program is designed to meet the needs and interests of full-time faculty and staff from one of the following institutions with a demonstrable capacity in the food and agricultural sciences: 1) **the eighteen 1890 Land-Grant Institutions and Tuskegee University**, 2) **the thirty-one 1994 Land-Grant (Tribal) Institutions**, 3) **the Land-Grant Institutions in American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands** and 4) **the newly designated Alaskan and Hawaiian Native Serving Institutions**. Any full-time land-grant faculty or staff member with an academic, research or extension appointment affiliated with these institutions may apply, including those who applied in previous years and were not selected.

Expected Outcomes

Through participation in the program fellows will increase their understanding of the Land-Grant System, particularly at the national level, and its relations to Federal agencies and national organizations, thereby strengthening the System. Also, USDA staff will become more knowledgeable about the fellow(s) and their home institution. As a result, Fellows will increase their ability to communicate with System members and partners at State and National levels; and CSREES staff will increase their knowledge of institutional capacity and how these capacities can be used by CSREES and other agencies and organizations in responding to National issues.

Projects

While in Washington, D.C., Fellows are expected to plan and carry out a project relevant to their interests and/or the needs of their institution and USDA while working in collaboration with one or more mentors on the CSREES national program staff. Fellows also receive an orientation especially designed for this program.

Additional Information

For further information, please contact Rena Bannister at 202-401-2855 (voice); 202-720-3945 (fax); or rbannister@csrees.usda.gov and gcooper@csrees.usda.gov.

Fellows Program**Application Nomination Procedures**

Applications are now being accepted for participation in the CSREES Fellows Program for the period of June through August 2006. Submit typed or printed applications to the CSREES Fellows Program, c/o Rena Bannister, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Mail Stop-2250, Washington, D.C. 20250, or Fax 202-720-3945. **The deadline for receipt of applications is March 20, 2006.**

Applicants are requested to complete all sections of the attached form, and nominations must include Sections 1 and 2 and factors that would describe the potential benefits of a fellows experience in Washington. The Agency will contact the nominee for additional information. A letter of concurrence and support from the applicant's Administrator, Director, or President must accompany the application to document a willingness to continue salary and benefits during the period of the fellows program.

Projects

Prospective applicants are encouraged to propose specific projects in support of the application. Activities should be innovative in exposing the potential fellow to research or education issues that will advance the food and agricultural sciences from institutional and national perspectives.. The text below suggests possible fellowship projects to convey the Program's potential. The list is illustrative; other topics are equally appropriate.

An applicant with research interests might propose one of the following projects:

- ! summarizing the interplay between public policy and on-going research (e.g., in natural resources areas such as forestry or water quality);
- ! participate in risk assessment and regulatory activities regarding the safety of food of animal origin; examine public health risk issues;
- ! identifying data sources and resources at the Federal level relevant to a specific research topic of interest; or
- ! participating in the administration of competitive research grants, including solicitation and review of research proposals and grant awards.
- ! enhance learning through distance learning through the application of distance learning methodologies.
- ! improve the design and development of impact statements for formula funded programs.
- ! propose innovative collaborations between institutions and federal agencies.

An applicant interested in higher education might propose one of the following:

- ! assisting in the administration of a national higher education competitive grants program, including coordinating scientific review panels;
- ! identifying and disseminating baseline data with which to analyze attributes and trends in higher education in the food and agricultural sciences;
- ! assisting in the management of an international program which sends faculty abroad to assist ongoing projects in a variety of countries; or

- ! assisting in the management of the Current Research Information System (CRIS) and its data collection, analysis, and dissemination activities.
Cooperative Extension educators might propose one of the following:
- ! identify teaching resources to be included in a family economics world wide web site from inside and outside Extension, critiquing available resources and noting gaps;
- ! collaborating with CSREES agricultural economists in launching a national initiative "Managing Change in Agriculture," focusing on decision making and system linkages within a particular sector of agriculture or community (e.g., small farms or small towns);
- ! plan or conduct a program on a priority topic (e.g., horticulture, health) that requires extensive contact with Federal and state staff;
- ! providing leadership for parts of a national initiative focusing on a specific audience (e.g., limited resource audiences, 4-H), approach (e.g., distance education) or set of institutions; and
- ! study management aspects of Federal legislation, Departmental directives, and links to other national groups, including partnership organizations such as NASULGC, ESCOP, ECOP, ACOP, ICOP, etc.

Applicants with interests cross-cutting research, extension, and higher education might describe accomplishments in a given topical area and design ways of giving them greater visibility; participate in the administrative and financial management of Federal Assistance Programs for research and education; participate in the CSREES budget process including budget compilation, justification, legislative interaction, and overall budget management; or participate in the implementation of the Plan of Work accountability mandates.

Applicants also have opportunities to describe other interests outside of the illustrations above. Applications with clear, well-focused project preferences will be given priority.

Selection

This is a competitive program. A CSREES review panel will screen applications and recommend candidates in priority order. Applicants will be selected on the basis of their interests and the needs of sending institutions and CSREES.

Support

USDA will furnish travel expenses to and from Washington, D.C., per diem expenses (\$51 for meals and incidentals and a maximum of \$151 for lodging), and daily commuting costs. The sending institution will continue to pay salary and benefits.

For more information, contact Rena Bannister at 202-401-2855 (voice); 202-720-3945 (Fax); or rbannister@csrees.usda.gov. **Applications are Due March 20, 2006**

**2006 CSREES Fellows Program
Application**

Please complete the following questions, using additional paper where necessary for completeness.

1. Name: _____

Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Institutional Affiliation/employer: _____
(If not shown in address)

Work Phone(s): _____

FAX Number: _____

e-mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

.Background Information. In the space below or on a separate sheet of paper, briefly describe your professional career:

A. Current Affiliation (circle all that apply):

Research	Library Programs
Higher Education	Agriculture Natural Resources
Extension	Family & Consumer Sciences
International Programs	Veterinary Programs
	other allied disciplines (please specify)
	Youth Programs

B. Education and training, including highest degree earned, and fields of specialization.

C. Positions held, responsibilities, and accomplishments:

3. What kind of a project would you like to work on while in Washington, D.C. (i.e. area of emphasis/focus and expected results)?

4. Where do you plan to be career-wise 5 years from now?

5. How might a fellowship at USDA affect your career, your university's program(s), and their customers?

6. In the space below, please provide other comments to support your nomination based on experiences or proposed future activities.

7. Please indicate the name(s) of any CSREES staff you contacted while preparing this application:

Submit applications for the CSREES Fellows Program to Rena Bannister, USDA/CSREES, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Mail Stop 2250, Washington, D.C. 20250-2250. Completed applications may also be Faxed 202-720-3945. Applications must be received by March 20, 2006 for consideration during the current cycle. A letter of concurrence and support from the applicant's Administrator or Director must accompany the application.