

TO: Research Directors, Evans-Allen Programs
Presidents, 1994 Institutions
1890 Extension Administrators
1890 Academic Administrators
Research and Extension Administrators, District of Columbia and
The U. S. Territories
Administrators of Alaskan and Hawaiian Native Serving Institutions

FROM: George E. Cooper
Deputy Administrator
Science and Education Resources Development

SUBJECT: 2006 CSREES Fellows Program

The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) of the Department of Agriculture (USDA) is pleased to continue the Fellows Program in 2006. This Program offers full-time faculty and staff affiliated with designated land-grant universities (listed above) the opportunity to work and study with CSREES Federal staff in Washington, D.C., during the summer, (June 1, 2006-August 31, 2006).

The program was first established in 1992 for Cooperative Extension staff in all 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Tuskegee University, and the land-Grant Institutions in American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Micronesia, North Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands and modified recently to include faculty affiliated with 1994 Tribal Colleges and the Alaska Native Serving and Hawaiian Native Serving institutions. In 1996, eligibility was broadened to include all personnel at these eligible institutions affiliated with food and agricultural sciences (including agriculture, forestry and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, veterinary science, and closely allied fields) in research, extension, teaching, international programs, and libraries. Any faculty and staff member affiliated with these institutions may apply, including those who applied in previous years and were not selected. Nominations are also welcomed. Since the Program's inception, 44 individuals have each spent at least 3 months in Washington, D.C., working on short-term projects in collaboration with a USDA advisor/mentor.

The CSREES Fellows Program reflects USDA's commitment to advancing its relationship with participating institutions and enhancing the capacity of their programs and staff. By enhancing Fellows' professional growth, the Program strengthens the quality of the land-grant programs and the mission of CSREES.

The CSREES Fellows Program is consistent with the President's Executive Orders 12320 and 12321 to help strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Tribal Colleges and Hispanic Serving Universities, and fosters workforce diversity. The Department has recognized the Program and is emulating it with a program with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities .

While in Washington, D.C. during this program, the Fellows will receive an orientation designed for this program and are expected to work on projects relevant to their interests and Agency needs in collaboration with a USDA advisor/mentor.

To support the Fellows, CSREES 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), plus daily commuting costs. CSREES also provides each Fellow with an office, secretarial support, computer training, and opportunities for professional development. During the Fellows Program, the sending institution will continue to pay salary and benefits. CSREES will be able to support approximately two fellows during the 2006 cycle (June 1, 2006 - August 31, 2006).

Attached for distribution to your staff, as appropriate, are: (a) The FY 2006 CSREES Fellows Program Announcement, which provides details about the program; (b) application form; and (c) application procedures. **Applications and nominations are due by March 20, 2006.**

A letter of concurrence and support from the applicant's Director, Administrator, or President must accompany the application to certify support of the applicant, and a willingness to continue the salary and fringe benefits of the selected Fellow during the period of assignment in Washington, DC. Applications will be reviewed by a Selection Panel, and applicants will be selected on the basis of individual interests and the needs of sending institutions and CSREES.

For more information about this program and to download the application, please visit our website at: http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/jobs_fellows.html

cc: CSREES Executive Council
CSREES Fellows Committee
CSREES NPL's
2005 CSREES Fellows
Kimberly E. Flody – Alabama A& M University
Yvonneda F. Thompson - Chief Dull Knife College

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