



USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum Student Diversity Program Sponsorship



Would your agency, corporation, or organization like to sponsor students to attend USDA's 2012 Agricultural Outlook Forum?

USDA's Outlook Forum Diversity Program has created a sponsorship opportunity for agencies, corporations, and organizations. This program sponsors between 20-24 students to attend USDA's annual 2-day event, promoting participation that will educate students about agribusiness, the latest research, future trends, and policy in contemporary agriculture. The selected students represent the diversity of American agriculture and are hopefully among the next generation of agricultural industry leaders.

Sponsorship: The 2012 Agricultural Outlook Forum will be held February 23-24, 2012, in Arlington, Virginia, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel. USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board and National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will provide the students with complimentary registration. The Agricultural Research Service will host a tour of USDA's Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. Sponsors will provide expenses for lodging, meals, and transportation for the students from their college or university to Washington, D.C., arriving February 21, 2012, and returning home February 24, 2012. Sponsors will receive appreciative mention in the Forum program, on the Forum Web site: www.usda.gov/oce/forum, and in a USDA press release.

Selection Criteria: The Diversity Program targets agriculture, agricultural economics, agricultural communications, agricultural business, or pre-veterinary junior or senior undergraduate students. Participating Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources institutions will submit a letter of recommendation from the Dean of the Agricultural Department for up to two students per school along with the student's one-page essay titled "Agriculture as a Career." Final selections will be made by Lisa Purnell, USDA 1890's Program Manager, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore (UMES). Two positions are reserved for UMES students.

For information on the 2011 Forum, please visit: www.usda.gov/oce/forum

Essay Submission Deadline: November 7, 2011

Sponsorship Declaration Deadline: November 15, 2011

For More Information, please contact: Brenda Chapin, Forum Coordinator, at 202-720-5447 or bchapin@oce.usda.gov

The 2011 Sponsors include: CHS, Inc., Farm Credit System, Deere & Company, and USDA's Economic Research Service.

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