Announcement of SEEDS Fellowship

Congratulations to all of the semifinalists applying for the SEEDS Fellowship! You all did a great job in competing for the SEEDS fellowship. It was a tough decision to make but we would like to congratulate Jessica Vallejo, an SDSU transfer student that shows a promising career in food security and sustainability. She is currently pursuing her bachelors degree in public health and plans to attend graduate school immediately upon graduation. Her goals are to work with the USDA in decreasing hunger in the United States by providing nutrition education to low income communities and giving those families access to quality food.

Farewell to our fellow SEEDS Scholars

This year we have a few SEEDS scholars that will be transferring to a university! Congratulations to Nate Tauzer for graduating at San Diego Mesa College! (pictured left) A job well done! Nate Tauzer will be transferring to SDSU for his bachelors in psychology. Jessica Vallejo will be attending SDSU to obtain her bachelors in public health. Also, Esteban Flores will be attending CSU-LA to obtain his bachelors in Film Arts.
The USDA provides this description of the fellowship:

“Science Fellows collaborate with leading scientists from USDA’s Agricultural Research Service (ARS) - one of the world’s premier scientific organizations. Participants learn about state-of-the-art agricultural research that solves problems affecting Hispanic Americans and the rest of our nation on a daily basis. Fellows share their experience with students at their respective HSIs, motivating Hispanic students to pursue careers in agriculture, science, research, and technology. USDA Photo by Lance Cheung.

This fellowship program offers faculty from Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) the opportunity to work collaboratively with USDA to gain insight and understanding of the federal government. This uniquely tailored experience brings together HSI staff and federal executives to address the spectrum of challenges faced in the development of a well-prepared diverse workforce. Fellows spend up to two weeks in Washington, DC to increase their understanding of USDA and other federal agencies, particularly at the national level, and to identify and explore mutual collaborative interests.

Education Fellows learn first-hand the mission and programs of USDA by meeting with leadership and staff from each of the department’s agencies. In addition to meeting with USDA officials, Fellows connect with other Federal Agencies and organizations. Participants enrich the USDA with their diverse experiences and allow for ongoing dialogue regarding the educational challenges facing the Hispanic community.”

Dr. Leticia Lopez Sabbatical

As many of you may already know, Dr. Leticia Lopez will be on sabbatical until January 2017. She and her family will be making Quito, Ecuador their home for the next six months! They are excited to experience a new culture and travel throughout Latin America. One of their stops will be the Galapagos Islands! We would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Leticia Lopez who has worked so hard with the SEEDS Scholars to provide mentorship. She will truly be missed until then!
Selection of the 2016-2017 SEEDS cohort
Congratulations to our new SEEDS cohort. It was a tough selection process with many applicants. This year we have new students that show promising futures in food security, hunger, and sustainability. We are very excited to see them progress through the SEEDS program.

Let us take a look at the new faces of the 2016-2017 Scholars!

The “SEEDS” Scholars Program (STEM Engagement for the Enrichment of Diverse Students) is designed to increase the number of Hispanic students pursuing future graduate degrees by providing a firm foundation of advanced knowledge and skills in STEM-related fields (science, technology, engineering, math), beginning in the first two years of college.