National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Hispanic-Serving Institutions Grants Program

2011 Project Directors' Meeting
November 17 - 19, 2011

Nov. 17
8:15-5:30pm
Waterfront Center
800 9th St, SW
Washington DC
20024

Nov. 18
8:30-12:00
Whitten Bldg
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC
20250

Nov. 18
1:00-4:00pm
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd,
Arlington, VA 22230

Nov. 19
8:15-12:15 pm
Waterfront Center
800 9th St, SW
Washington DC
20024

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

800 9th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Day 1 Thursday, November 17th, 2011

Location: NIFA Waterfront Bldg, Room 1410 B-C

8:15– 8:30 a.m.	Irma Lawrence Ed. D.	National Program Leader, HSI – Welcome and Introductions
8:30–8-40 a.m.	Ralph Otto, Ph. D.	Deputy Director, NIFA
8:40– 8: 50 a.m.	Caroline Crocoll, Ph. D.	Assistant Director (Acting), IYFC
8:50– 9:05 a.m.	Sandra Cortez	HSI National Program
9:05 – 9:20 a.m.	Wenndy Carrasco	Student Employment Program Manager
9:20 – 9:40 a.m.	Judith Canales	Administrator, Rural Development Business and Cooperatives Programs, USDA
9:40 – 10:00 a.m.	Altheria Myers	ODEO Outreach and Recruitment Branch Chief
10:00 –10:20 a.m.	Marvis Montesano	Director, Talent Management, NRCS

10:20 – 10:45 a.m. **Morning Break**

10:45 – 11:50 a.m. **NIFA Staff Presentations**

10:50 – 11:05 a.m.	Henry Doan, Ph. D.	Planning and Accountability
11:05 – 11:20 a.m.	Rochelle McCrea	Award Management Branch
11:20 - 11:35 a.m.	Adam Preuter	Planning, Accountability, and Reporting
11:35 – 11:50 a.m.	Scott C. Elliott	Senior Editor, Communications Staff

12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch (on your own)**

Afternoon Session Presentations – Collaboration Grants

1:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Florida International University, Mahadev Bhat, Ph. D. Florida-Caribbean Consortium for Agriculture Education and Hispanic Workforce Development
1:15 – 1:30 p.m.	University of Texas, El Paso - Heidi Taboada, Ph.D. BGREEN - Building a Regional Energy and Educational Network
1:30 – 1:45 p.m.	Texas A & M, Kingsville – Randy Stanko, Ph. D. STEP UP to USDA Career Success: Science, Technology and Environmental Programs for Undergraduate Preparation to USDA Career Success.
1:45 – 2:00 p.m.	University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Felix Roman, Ph. D. UPR-Mayaguez Center for Education and Training in Agricultural and Related Sciences (CETARS)
2:00 - 2:15 p.m.	New Mexico State University, Martha Desmond, Ph. D. Preparing Students for Career Paths with the USDA Forest Service by Linking Student Success with Experiential Learning Opportunities
2:15 - 2:30 p.m.	Texas State, San Marcos, Douglas Moorish, Ph .D. Food Safety and Agroterrorism Training: Educating Our Future Workforce
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	California State University, San Bernardino, David Zoldoske, Ph. D. Watershed Management Experiential Learning for USDA Careers

2:45 – 3:00 p.m. **Afternoon Break**

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Break out session – Location: Room 4103-05

- Childhood Obesity
- Plant Science Programs
- Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities
- Climate Change
- Higher Education Programs
- Coordinated Agricultural Projects
- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative
- Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants
- Food Safety
- Natural Resources and Environment
- Small Business Innovation Research
- Global Food Security and Hunger
- Agriculture Systems and Technology
- Sustainable Bioenergy
- Animal Science Programs
- International Programs

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Jaime Chahin, Ph. D. Professor and Dean of the College of Applied Arts, Meta-Analysis Session

5:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

Day 2 Friday, November 18th, 2011
Location: Whitten Federal Building, Room 107-A and Patio
Use guest entrance (middle of the building)

Whitten Bldg Room 107-A

8:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Irma A. Lawrence, Ed. D., Remarks (Questions and Answers)
8:45 – 9:00 a.m. Manager	Febe Ortiz, Acting Departmental Hispanic Employment Program
9:00 – 9:10 a.m.	Oscar Gonzales, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, USDA
9:10 – 9:20 a.m.	Douglas M. Garcia Executive Director, Federal Relations & Outreach, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)
9:20 – 9:40 a.m.	Daniel Smigal, Director, USDA/FSIS/OM/OCHRO Mary Gioglio, Branch Chief, Human Capital Management Team, FSIS Laura Sepulveda, Student Program Manager, FSIS
9:40 – 10:00 a.m.	Pedro Nieto, National Equal Opportunity Manager, FS

Whitten Bldg Room Patio

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	**Posters Set-up**
10:30 – 11:50 a.m.	**Poster Session**
11:50 – 1:00 p.m.	**Travel by Taxi to NFS (Lunch on your own)**

Afternoon Session: National Science Foundation at 4201 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA

1:00 - 1:05 p. m.	Victor Santiago, Education Directorate, Introductions
1:05 – 1:10 p.m.	Muriel Poston, Office of the Director Welcome and Remarks
1:10 – 1:25 p.m.	Danielle Kittrell, Education Directorate Merit Review Process
1:25 – 1:45 p.m.	Don Lewis Millard (dmillard@nsf.gov), Education Directorate Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science (TUES)
1:45 – 2:05 p.m.	Jose Herrera, (jherrera@nsf.gov), Education Directorate STEM Talent Expansion Program (STEP)

2:05 –2:25 p.m.	James A. Hicks (ahicks@nsf.gov), Education Directorate Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP)
2:25 –2:45 p.m.	Joyce B. Evans (jevans@nsf.gov), Education Directorate Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM)
2:45–3:00 p.m.	**Break**
3:00–3:20 p.m.	David Campbell (dcampbel@nsf.gov), Education Directorate. Advanced Technological Education (ATE)
3:20–3:40 p.m.	Tom Rieker (trieker@nsf.gov), Division of Materials Research, Partnerships for Research and Education in Materials (PREM)
3:40–4:00 p.m.	Diane Jofuku Okamuru (dbipgr@nsf.gov), Directorate for Biological Sciences Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP)
4:00 p.m.	**Wrap-up**

Day 3 Saturday, November 19th, 2011
Location: NIFA Waterfront Bldg, Room 1410 A-C

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Questions & Answers Session, Irma Lawrence, Ed. D.
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Movie: The Longoria Affair
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Morning Break
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	Evaluation Indicators Group Session (4 groups)
11:45 - 12:00 noon	Group Presentations
12:00 – 12:15 p.m.	Closing Remarks, Irma Lawrence, Ed. D. Josue Lopez, Ph. D.
12:15 p.m.	**Adjourn**

2011 HSI Project Description

Lead Project Director: Stacey Darling-Novak **Lead Institution: University of La Verne**

Bridging the Gap between HSI Community Colleges, University of La Verne, and Agricultural Science Graduate Schools. The objective of University of La Verne's HSI USDA grant is to recruit students from local HSI community colleges and predominately Hispanic high schools, provide training for success in graduate school, and introduce these students to the agricultural sciences through coursework and ag-related research projects. Students will be recruited through workshops, and retention will be promoted through scholarships and summer stipends. In addition, students will visit UC Riverside to learn about graduate school and career opportunities through our USDA sponsored agencies, the UCR Salinity Lab and the National Clonal Germplasm Repository for Citrus and Dates.

Lead Project Director: Kenneth R. Summy **Lead Institution: Univ. of Texas-Pan American**

Experiential Learning for Hispanic Students of South Texas: Biological Control of Giant Reed, an Invasive, Water-Consuming Weed. The University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA) has been awarded a grant of $245,000 by the USDA-NIFA Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Education Grants Program to prepare south Texas university students for careers in the agricultural sciences. The two-year project will be conducted in collaboration with the USDA-ARS Kika de la Garza Subtropical Agricultural Research Center in Weslaco, TX, focusing on biological suppression of exotic, invasive giant reed along the Rio Grande. Students will conduct independent research under supervision of ARS and UTPA scientists while receiving intensive training in scientific methods and communication, through delivery of presentations and preparation of scientific manuscripts.

Lead Project Director: Ronald Heimler **Lead Institution: CSU, Pomona**

Focus on the Future: Cultivating a Multicultural 21st Century Workforce in the U.S. Agricultural Sector. Hiring a qualified workforce that possesses strong communication, math, management, leadership, and problem solving skills is critical to the mission of the USDA. However, recruiting graduates from the Hispanic community has been a challenge. A new project sponsored by the USDA at Cal Poly Pomona's College of Agriculture will increase the number of Hispanic graduates with the skills needed by the U.S. agricultural sector. Through a modified curriculum that emphasizes the development of these mission critical skills and with the creation of specialized professional development resources, including a mentoring network of industry executives, the project will benefit 2000 undergraduates.

Lead Project Director: Mary Rousseau **Lead Institution: Broward College**

Establishment of the Global Trade and Logistics Bachelor of Applied Science Program with an Emphasis on Food and Agriculture products. Broward College is developing a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Global Trade and Logistics with an emphasis on International Agricultural Trade (IAT). The curriculum development project builds on an existing Associate of Science degree and will address real market and employment needs in the region. At least seven new courses will be developed by faculty and additional learning experiences will be developed through the partner institutions and agencies; and with industry placements for internships and practicum.

Lead Project Director: Judith Beto **Lead Institution: Dominican University**

PUENTES: Pathway of Undergraduate Education for Nutrition Training Experience and Success. PUENTES, Pathway to Undergraduate Education for Nutrition, Training, Experience, and Success: Creating Missing Bridges to the Registered Dietitian (RD) Credential for Hispanics, addresses the current missing link between education and RD professional practice by 1) creating a coordinated undergraduate program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Dietetic Education using paid clinical preceptors to "bridge over" the known barrier (post-degree 1200 hour supervised practice computer-matching process placing less than 10% Hispanic students nationwide) with an integrated seamless pathway, and 2) disseminating this replicable, sustainable, financially-viable curriculum model to accelerate the number of Hispanic RD's in the workforce by 2014.

Lead Project Director: David Still **Lead Institution: CSU, Pomona**

Sowing the Seeds for the Next Generation of Plant Breeders. A critical challenge facing the U.S is to inform students of the diverse career opportunities available in agriculture, many of which are with the U.S.D.A. Many disciplines within agricultural are highly technical and require a strong foundation in basic and life science. We will recruit mentor and train highly talented underrepresented students to work on research projects in translational plant breeding projects which are built upon genomics, bioinformatics and genetics. This HSI project will result in greater achievement and retention of our students while preparing them to enter the work force or continue their education by attending graduate school.

Lead Project Director: Sara Johnson **Lead Institution: CSU, Fullerton**

Urban Agriculture Community-based Research Experience (U-ACRE). The Urban Agriculture Community-based Research Experience (U-ACRE) program at California State University Fullerton will provide: community-based research experience for undergraduates, innovative curriculum including a four-week intensive course, research seminars, online resources to increase content delivery and advisement, and a replicable model of urban agriculture as a tool to increase food security and improve child nutrition. Community-based research foci include: the development of sustainable urban agriculture projects, such as food loops including public schools, that increase biodiversity and community food security, understanding food choices through childhood in the context of food insecurity, and enhancing children's nutritional status.

Lead Project Director: Archana J. McEligot **Lead Institution: CSU, Fullerton**

Increasing Workforce Diversity: Training Hispanic Students to Address Childhood Obesity and Nutrition. The purpose of the project is to reduce childhood obesity among immigrant Hispanic children by 1) developing a novel curricula on childhood obesity and nutrition, integrating health policy and cultural/social determinants of obesity in the Hispanic population 2) training and developing underrepresented Hispanic leaders to more effectively tackle childhood obesity and enter the workforce through not only class-room learning, but also through leadership training and community-based/USDA-related experiential experience. Through this integrative approach, the present project will prepare Hispanic students' for careers in food and nutrition sciences, and potentially contribute to tackling and reducing childhood obesity in underrepresented immigrant children.

Lead Project Director: Maya Durnovo **Lead Institution: Houston Community College**

Agriculture Out of Bounds. Houston Community College (HCC), Prairie View A & M University (PVAMU) and Dayton ISD will develop a new, sustainable, earth-conscious green initiative and curriculum titled: Aquaponics an efficient methodology for fish and food production. This project has three objectives: 1. To increase Hispanic and underrepresented students' knowledge of Aquaponics.
2. To stimulate underrepresented students¿ interest in horticulture and agriculture as viable career path.
3. To support students to complete Aquaponic classes at Dayton ISD, HCC, and enroll in the PVAMU Bachelor of Science degree program. 500 high school and college students and 200 parents will participate in one or more activities.

Lead Project Director: Marshall Logvin **Lead Institution: South Mountain Community College**

South Mountain Community College Advancing Undergraduate Bioscience Engagement Track. The purpose of A-UBET is to increase underrepresented minority graduates in food, agriculture, and natural resource sciences. A-UBET has three Objectives: conduct summer bridge academies to transition middle school graduates into high school/college agriculture coursework; bring university and ARS researchers into high school bioscience classes to engage students in their research; and to spread agriculture education into mainstream science classes, preparing more students for agriculture-related careers. A-UBET Outcomes will be 3000+ university-transferrable dual enrollment college credits earned by 1200+ students, at least 400 Hispanic or other minority, and 50+ will continue to pursue agriculture related college degrees.

Lead Project Director: JoAnn Canales **Lead Institution: Texas A & M University, Corpus Christi**

The Cultivar Project: Connecting Underrepresented Latinos To Integrate Values and Academic Resources. Connecting Underrepresented Latinos To Integrate Values and Academic Resources (CULTIVAR) brings added value to Latinos pursuing graduate education and employment in USDA occupations. It will identify, select, and cultivate Master's degree level students in food and agricultural sciences disciplines through an outstanding thesis award competition focused on USDA priority areas of Food Safety, Climate Change, Sustainable Energy and Childhood Obesity. Fifty fellows, including the award winners, will participate in a Career Preparation Institute networking with senior faculty researchers and USDA agency representatives and create a leadership plan focused on developing human capital relevant to meeting the USDA labor force needs.

Lead Project Director: Andres Aguilar **Lead Institution: University of California, Merced**

Undergraduate Training and Mentoring in the Agricultural Sciences. The proposed intensive training and mentoring program for undergraduate students in the Agricultural Sciences will offer undergraduate students intensive training, experiential learning opportunities at UC Merced and partner USDA labs, professional skills workshops, and a public seminar series. One of the undergraduate scholars that successfully completes our program will be eligible for a scholarship to attend graduate school at UC Merced in an agriculture-related field. The proposed program will strengthen the local workforce, provide highly trained minority scientists an opportunity to pursue agricultural careers, and expose the general public to cutting edge science used to solve contemporary agricultural issues.

Lead Project Director: Brenda Toro **Lead Institution: Univ. of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras**

Improved Laboratory Facilities for the UPR-RP Nutrition and Dietetics Program. This project will provide state-of-the-art laboratory equipment and updated curriculum for the Nutrition/Dietetics Program. Over the expected 10 year life-span of the equipment, the project will impact at least 550 students enrolled in Program courses. Through the courses and extracurricular experiences, students will be better trained for professional careers in nutrition/dietetics and in areas of interest to the USDA. A scholarship will be provided to a Program graduate to pursue a MS degree in Nutrition/Dietetics. The facilities will promote collaboration with the USDA-FNS in P.R. by means of an annual career day to attract students into internships/careers with the USDA.

Lead Project Director: Shad Nelson **Lead Institution: Texas A & M, Kingsville**

STEP UP to USDA Career Success: Science, Technology and Environmental Programs for Undergraduate Preparation to USDA Career Success. A multi-institutional grant entitled "STEP UP to USDA Career Success" and funded by the USDA-NIFA Hispanic Serving Institutions grant program will assist in the training and education of an under-represented South Texas Hispanic population for careers in USDA agencies. Students from five degree granting institutions will receive training in the agricultural and natural resource sciences from Texas A&M University-Kingsville through a series of targeted summer short-courses, summer internships with USDA agency partners, and research projects in the soil, animal, and natural resource sciences; such that 50 B.S., 8 M.S. and 1 Ph.D. graduates are ready for hire in USDA agencies.

Lead Project Director: Susan L. Longville **Lead Institution: CSU, San Bernardino**

Watershed Management Experiential Learning for USDA Careers. A Regional Collaboration (ROCN) of 14 Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) within the California State University (CSU) system seeks to increase the retention and graduation of underrepresented students for careers in the USDA's workforce through an innovative paid experiential-learning Watershed Management Internship program. Utilizing Chancellor Reed's Water Resources and Policy Initiatives that bring together over 250 CSU water-related faculty and researchers, this collaboration will harness the research capacity of the CSU faculty and students to address critical water issues confronting California. Over 4 years, 200 underrepresented undergraduate and graduate students will be selected for a mentored research projects aimed at USDA careers.

Lead Project Director: Martha Desmond **Lead Institution: New Mexico State University**

Preparing Students for Career Paths with the USDA Forest Service by Linking Student Success with Experiential Learning Opportunities... This proposal is a collaboration among 11 New Mexico and Puerto Rico institutions. Our objectives center on mentoring cohorts of students to prepare them for careers in Natural Resource Management. Students will be provided experiential learning opportunities appropriate for their academic level that engage them in resource management. Annual programs include FS and other internships, faculty mentorships, local and international field courses, a semester exchange program between New Mexico and Puerto Rico, high school field trips, and advising and tutoring. These programs will result in improved recruitment, retention, academic performance and graduation rates, and more students moving directly to careers with USDA.

Lead Project Director: Douglas G. Morrish **Lead Institution: Texas State University, San Marcos**

Food Safety and Agro terrorism Training: Educating Our Future Workforce. The proposed project between Texas State University, Laredo Community College, Palo Alto College, and Northwest Vista College will fund 50 undergraduate students and employ 6 graduate students. Students will become certified by the Department of Homeland Security in the course entitled Preparedness and Response to Food and Agriculture Incidents. Students will participate in a one week "travelling classroom" to the Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center and be introduced to food safety vulnerabilities through field trips to dairies, food processing factories, and the United States/Mexico Livestock Border Crossing.

Lead Project Director: Heidi Taboada **Lead Institution: University of Texas, El Paso**

BGREEN - Building a Regional Energy and Educational Network. A consortium comprised of the University of Texas at El Paso, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Texas State University-San Marcos, New Mexico State University, and USDA-ARS have established an educational network that will increase the number of Hispanic students being employed by federal agencies such as USDA in areas related to Sustainable Energy. The goal of the BGREEN (BuildinG a Regional Energy and Educational Network) consortium is to create a collaborative network of researchers, educators, USDA agencies, and non-profit organizations to coordinate efforts, share resources, and increase educational, training and post-graduation opportunities for Hispanic students pursuing careers in the Sustainable Energy area.

Lead Project Director: Felix R. Roman **Lead Institution: University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez**

UPR-Mayaguez Center for Education and Training in Agricultural and Related Sciences (CETARS). CETARS is an interdisciplinary and collaborative effort between 5 Hispanic serving institutions, which will provide students from agriculture and related disciplines with graduate research assistantships, undergraduate research stipends and educational and training experiences. CETARS scope also involves outreach activities and hands-on research experiences for talented K-12 students. All of CETARS education training activities are aimed at providing innovative, high impact research training and education experiences to students and faculty from underrepresented Hispanics groups. This way, CETARS will establish and consolidate a pipeline attracting, recruiting, retaining and graduating talented individuals while supporting their actual placement in Agriculture-related positions.

Lead Project Director: Mahadev Bhat **Lead Institution: Florida International University**

Florida-Caribbean Consortium for Agriculture Education and Hispanic Workforce Development. This is a proposal to establish a multi-institutional consortium in Florida and Puerto Rico for training Hispanic students in biological and natural sciences for career placement in USDA and other federal agencies. The Consortium will consist of Florida International University (FIU), as the lead institution, Miami Dade College-North Campus (MDC), St. Thomas University, Miami (STU), and Universidad Interamericana de Puerto Rico (UIA), as partnering HSI institutions, and several not-for profit and government agencies. The proposed Consortium will target a large body of Hispanic and underrepresented students (a total of 270,000 students, 65% Hispanic). The overall goal is to develop a scientifically challenging and digitally innovative educational program, which trains forty-nine bachelor students, four Master's students and one doctoral student of underrepresented Hispanic community in biological and natural sciences (BARS track) relating to food productivity and the environment. The project will (a) enrich the existing environmental/biological/food sciences degree programs with innovative teaching modules and emerging agricultural issues; (b) develop online and distance learning courses; (c) integrate social media networking and web-based learning tools into the proposed agriculture curriculum; (e) offer aggressive programs of internship, community engagement, and career placement programs; and (f) offer a K-12 school outreach program. Students so trained will be ready for career placement in USDA's mission-critical occupations in agencies such as ARS, APHIS and NRCS, with an expertise to work in the priority areas of sustainable food production, natural resources conservation and agriculture-climate change interactions.

Project Logic Models and Posters

Project Director	College or University	**State**	**Logic Model**	**Poster**
Marshall Logvin	South Mountain Community College	AZ	Marshal Logic Model	Marshall Poster
Stacey Darling-Novak	University of La Verne	CA	Darling-Novak Logic Model	Darling-Novak Poster
Ronald Heimler	CSU, Pomona	CA	Heimler Logic Model	Heimler Poster
Sara Johnson	CSU, Fullerton	CA	Johnson Logic Model	Johnson Poster
Archana J. McEligot	CSU, Fullerton	CA	McEligot Logic Model	McEligot Poster
David Still	CSU, Pomona	CA	Still Logic Model	Still Poster
Andres Aguilar	University of California,	CA	Aguilar Logic Model	Aguilar Poster
Susan L. Longville	CSU, San Bernardino	CA	Longville Logic Model	Longville Poster
Mary Rousseau	Broward College	FL	Rousseau Logic Model	Rousseau Poster
Mahadev Bhat	Florida International University	FL	Bhat Logic Model	Bhat Poster
Judith Beto	Dominican University	IL	Beto Logic Model	Beto Poster
Martha Desmond	New Mexico State University	NM	Desmond Logic Model	Desmond Poster
Brenda Toro	University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras	PR	Toro Logic Model	Toro Poster
Felix R. Roman	University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez	PR	Roman Logic Model	Roman Poster
Shad Nelson	Texas A & M, Kingsville	TX	Nelson Logic Model	Nelson Poster
Kenneth R. Summy	University of Texas-Pan American	TX	Summy Logic Model	Summy Poster
Maya Durnovo	Houston Community College	TX	Durnovo Logic Model	Durnovo Poster
JoAnn Canales	Texas A & M University, Corpus Christi	TX	Canales Logic Model	Canales Poster
Douglas G. Morrish	Texas State University, San Marcos	TX	Morrish Logic Model	Morrish Poster
Heidi Taboada	University of Texas, El Paso	TX	Taboada Logic Model	Taboada Poster