



USDA



**Oct. 17, Afternoon
Collaboration Grants
Waterfront Center
800 9th St, SW
Washington DC 20024**

**Oct. 18 - Morning
Waterfront Center
800 9th St, SW
Washington DC 20024**

**Oct. 18 - Afternoon
National Science
Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd,
Arlington, VA 22230**

**Oct. 19
8:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
104-A Whitten Bldg
1400 Independence
Ave., SW Washington,
DC 20250**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Grants Program

**FY 2012
New Project Directors' Training
October 18-19, 2012**

**Collaboration FY 2012 Pre-Training
October 17, 2012**

**800 9th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024**

FY 2012 HSI New Project Director's Training
Continuation Collaboration Grants—Pre-Conference Session
1:00 – 5:00 p.m. (Closed Meeting)
Location: NIFA Waterfront Bldg, Room 1410 B-C

Pre-Conference Wednesday, October 17, 2012

1:00 – 1:10 p.m.	Welcome – Irma Lawrence and Muquarrab Qureshi
1:10 – 1:30 p.m.	Discuss IDRA's First Year Report
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Discuss Year 2 Meta-evaluation Comments on the Evaluation Brochure
2:00 – 2:15 p.m.	Year 1 and 2 Deadlines
2:15 – 2:30 pm.	Finding and Placing Internships--Including Non-profit Organizations
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Comments on the Evaluation Brochure FY 2013 – FY 2014, Collaboration Project Implementation Barriers and Solutions
2:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Selecting Graduate Students for Institute – JoAnn Canales
3:00 – 3:10 p.m.	Break

Presentations – Collaboration Grants –Outcomes and Impacts of First Year

3:10 – 3:20 p.m.	Florida International University, Mahadev Bhat, Ph. D. <i>Florida-Caribbean Consortium for Agriculture Education and Hispanic Workforce_ Development</i>
3:20 – 3:30 p.m.	University of Texas, El Paso - Heidi Taboada, Ph. D. <i>BGREEN - Building a Regional Energy and Educational Network</i>
3:30 – 3:40 p.m.	Texas A & M, Kingsville – Shad Nelson, Ph. D. <i>STEP UP to USDA Career Success: Science, Technology and Environmental Programs for Undergraduate Preparation to USDA Career Success.</i>
3:40 – 3:50 p.m.	University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, Felix Roman, Ph. D. UPR-Mayaguez Center for Education and Training in Agricultural and Related Sciences (CETARS)
3:50 – 4:00 p.m.	New Mexico State University, Martha Desmond, Ph. D. <i>Preparing Students for Career Paths with the USDA Forest Service by Linking Student Success with Experiential Learning Opportunities</i>
4:00 – 4:10 p.m.	Texas State, San Marcos, Douglas Moorish, Ph .D. <i>Food Safety and Agroterrorism Training: Educating Our Future Workforce</i>
4:10 – 4:20 p.m.	California State University, San Bernardino, Julie Lappin <i>Watershed Management Experiential Learning for USDA Careers</i>
4:20 – 4:30 p.m.	Q & A

4:30 – 4:45 p.m. **Adjourn**

All Grantees

Day 1 Thursday, October 18, 2012

Location: NIFA Waterfront Bldg, Room 1410 B-C

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Registrations and Refreshments

9:00 – 9:15 a.m. Irma Lawrence
Welcome and Introductions

9:15 - 9:30 a.m. Muquarrab A. Qureshi, Assistant Director, IYFC

9:30 - 9:45 a.m. [Karl Maxwell, Planning, Accountability, and Reporting](#)

9:45 - 10:00 a.m. [Adam Preuter, Planning, Accountability, and Reporting](#)

10:00 - 10:15 a.m. ***Morning Break***

10:15 - 11:15 a.m. ***Meet the NIFA NPLs by Institute***
(Rotating PDs in groups of 2 or 3) Room 1410 D

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

11:15 - 12:00 noon ***Lunch*** (delivered lunch—Collect individual orders and payment in the morning)

12:00 - 12:30 p.m. **Travel by Taxi to NSF at [4201 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22230](#)**

12:30 - 12:45 p.m. Arrive at NSF and Go Through Security
(We will begin at 1:00 pm promptly at NSF, please be on time)

Afternoon Session: National Science Foundation Headquarters

Stafford Place 2, OISE Room 1155.01

1:00 -1:05 p.m.	<i>Sylvia James, Acting Division Director, Directorate for Education and Human Resources</i> <i>Introductions</i>
1:05 – 1:10 p.m.	<i>Jermelina L. Garibay Tupas , Deputy Division Director, Directorate for Education and Human Resources</i> <i>Welcome and Remarks</i>
1:10 – 1:30 p.m.	<i>John Rand (jrand@nsf.gov), Education Directorate</i> <i>Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP)</i> http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5477
1:30 – 1:50 p.m.	<i>Joyce B. Evans (jevans@nsf.gov), Education Directorate</i> <i>Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM)</i> http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5733&org=DUE&from=home
1:50 – 2:20 p.m.	<i>Diane Jofuku Okamuro (dbipgr@nsf.gov), Directorate for Biological Sciences</i> <i>Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP)</i> http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5338
2:10 – 2:30 p.m.	<i>Jose Herrera, (jherrera@nsf.gov), Education Directorate</i> <i>STEM Talent Expansion Program (STEP)</i> http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5488&org=DUE&from=home
2:30 – 2:50 p.m.	<i>David Brown (drbrown@nsf.gov), Education Directorate</i> <i>Advanced Technological Education (ATE)</i> http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5464&org=DUE&from=home
2:50 – 3:00 p.m.	<i>BREAK</i>
3:00 – 3:20 p.m.	<i>Susan Finger (sfinger@nsf.gov), Education Directorate</i> <i>Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science (TUES)</i> http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5741&org=DUE&from=home
3:20 – 3:40 p.m.	<i>Sean Jones (sjones@nsf.gov), Division of Materials Research, Partnerships for Research and Education in Materials (PREM)</i> http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5439
3:40 –4:00 p.m.	<i>Danielle Kittrell, Education Directorate</i> <i>Merit Review Process</i>
4:00 p.m.	<i>Wrap-up</i>

Day 2 Friday, October 19, 2012

Location: Whitten Federal Building, Room 104-A and Patio
Use guest entrance on Independence Ave (middle of the building)

Whitten Bldg Room 104-A

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Irma A. Lawrence Remarks
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Vladimir Diaz, HSI National Program
9:15 – 9:30 a. m.	Elvis Cordova, Chief of Staff, REE
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	Wenndy Carrasco, Student Employment Program Manager
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Muquarrab Qureshi, Assistant Director, IYFC
10:15 – 11:00 a.m.	<i>Break and Posters Set-up</i>
11:00 – 11:15 a.m.	Pedro Nieto, National Equal Opportunity Manager, FS
11:15 – 11:30 a.m.	Judith Canales, Administrator, Rural Development-- Business and Cooperatives Programs, USDA

Whitten Bldg Room Patio

11:30 – 12:50 p.m.	<i>Poster Session – FY 2012 HSI Education Grants Program</i>
11:30 - 11:40 a.m.	Frederick Pfaeffle Arana, Principal Deputy General Counsel,
11:40 – 11:50 a.m.	Irma Lawrence Comments and Instructions
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch at Secretary's Dining Room HACE Members and Friends, Marielsie Avila, HACE President

2:00 – 2:15 p.m. **Move to Room 104-A Whitten Bldg**

2:15 -2:30 p.m. [Tanya Robles, Student Program Coordinator, NRCS](#)

2:30 -2:45 p.m. Jenny Allen, Diversity Program Manager, ARS

2:45 -3:00 p.m. [Alia M. Shabazz, ERS Training and Career Development Officer](#)

3:00 - 4:15 p.m. Jacqueline Padrón, National Hispanic Employment Manager
Speed-meeting with the HEPMs

4:15 – 4:30 p.m. Irma Lawrence
Adjourn

Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU) Meeting

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

800 9th Street, SW, Room 1410 A

Washington, DC 20024

Security Desk: 202-720-8455

[Attendee List \(pdf\)](#)

Saturday, October 20, 2012

8:00 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration	Room 1410-A
8:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Dr. Ralph Otto, Deputy Director, NIFA Why are we here? Hispanic-Serving Institutions Programs and Funding—NIFA Update	
8:45 – 9:00 a.m.	Matthew R. Lockhart, MBA, Senior Policy Specialist, NIFA HSACU Rule Making, Certification Process and Guidelines	
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Dr. Doug Glaeser, Director of Governmental and External Affairs, Division of University Advancement, CSU – Pomona, California What are the niche competencies of HSACU that contribute to USDA mission?	
9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Break	
9:45 – 10:25 a.m.	Dr. I. Miley Gonzalez Key Note Speaker: How can HSACUs lead and transform agricultural enterprise and communities?	
10:25 – 10:45 a.m.	Dr. Irma Lawrence and Dr. Josue Lopez, NIFA HSI Grants Program Investing in the Future	
10:45 – 11:40 a.m.	Prioritizing and Distribution of Tasks Next Steps: Finding Common Grounds Lead: Dr. Muquarrab Qureshi, IYFC Assistant Director, and NIFA Team: (Attendees)	
11:40 – 12:00 noon	Dr. Ralph Otto Closing Remarks and Adjourn	

2012 HSI Project Description

Please note: author's name provides a link to a pdf of their logic model

Proposal Number: 2012-01877

Lead Institution: University of Texas, El Paso

Award Number: 2012-38422-19910

Award Amount: \$295,000

Lead Project Director: [Ming-Ying Leung](#)

Project Duration: 3 years

[Bioinformatics Education for Agricultural Science](#). Agricultural pests acting as vectors for fatal pathogens pose a serious threat to our livestock. To combat this threat, researchers have recently been studying genomes of these pests, leading to an urgent demand for well-trained bioinformaticians to analyze the plethora of genetic data. By engaging students in USDA research and integrating agricultural problems into the curriculum with the help of web-based modules, we will motivate the students to pursue careers involving bioinformatics analysis in agricultural science. Our research focus is on identifying new pesticide targets through genomic data analysis of the cattle tick, a parasite with severe global economic impacts.

Proposal Number: 2012-01906

Lead Institution: Pima Community College, Desert Vista

Award Number: 2012-38422-19902

Award Amount: \$295,000

Lead Project Director: [Ted Roush](#)

Project Duration: 2 years

[The Pima Innovative Nutrition Track \(PINT\)](#). This project will address the problem of career opportunities for underrepresented populations by resolving a gap in available Nutrition classes for Hispanic students. PINT will target 145 Hispanic students through a Nutrition Science curriculum, encouraging enrollment in a new transfer certificate in Nutrition. The program will include guest speakers, field trips, and other opportunities to open up career options to targeted students. PINT will develop a new nutrition-based curriculum and negotiate an articulation agreement with the University of Arizona to create a transfer pipeline for students to achieve baccalaureate degrees in nutritional science.

Proposal Number: 2012-01870

Lead Institution: University of the Incarnate Word

Award Number: 2012-38422-19962

Award Amount: \$295,000

Lead Project Director: [Jesus Cuellar](#)

Project Duration: 3 years

[Preparing Hispanics for Leadership in the Applied Statistics Field](#). USDA/NIFA funds will be used to enhance the Master of Science in Applied Statistics (MSAS) program at the University of the Incarnate Word by establishing a Statistics Consulting Laboratory. It will be staffed by MSAS students who will be supervised by statistics faculty. Work in the lab will be required in the MSAS degree program and will consist of two components: 1) Providing statistical consulting services to real-world external clients and 2) Providing tutoring services to undergraduates in statistics courses. Participation for course credit in the lab will provide valuable experiential learning for students as they move from theoretical learning to practice.

Proposal Number: 2012-01871
Award Number: 2012-38422-19903
Lead Project Director: [Lydia I. Rivera](#)

Lead Institution: Univ. of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez
Award Amount: \$280,000
Project Duration: 3 years

[DNA-Based, Immunofluorescence, and Nano Technologies: Inspiring the next generation of scientists at the College of Ag. Sc. of the UPR.](#) Plant pathology and food sciences have commonly employed new techniques to deal with microbial pathogens. Recent concerns about bioterrorism, food safety and crop health have prompted scientists to intensely focus on early detection, rapid diagnosis, and pathogen risk assessment. Techniques based on DNA analysis, immunofluorescence and nanotechnology are newer ways to study food- and plant- microbe interactions. Activities in this proposal will expose and train over 600 Hispanic students to address key biosecurity issues, as well as on the application of these latest techniques to address plant-pathogen interactions and human food safety.

Proposal Number: 2012-01903
Award Number: 2012-38422-19826
Lead Project Director: [Michael W. Persans](#)

Lead Institution: Univ. of Texas, Pan American
Award Amount: \$295,000
Project Duration: 3 years

[An Experiential Learning Program at Two Hispanic Serving Institutions for Underrepresented Students Focused on Food Safety and Security.](#) The goals of this program are to recruit underrepresented students, retain them in BS and MS programs, provide student experiential learning, and channel them to Ph.D level studies or to USDA careers in the NIFA priority areas of Food Safety and Food Security. This proposal will benefit the residents of the Lower Rio Grande Valley in south Texas which is the location of one of the largest Hispanic population centers in Texas. We will produce highly trained underrepresented students who will enter Masters and Ph.D. programs or join the USDA workforce in the fields of Food Safety and Security.

Proposal Number: 2012-01886
Award Number: 2012-38422-19898
Lead Project Director: [Richard Mathias](#)

Lead Institution: California State University, Pomona
Award Amount: \$202,466
Project Duration: 3 years

[Business Marketing Planning for New Agricultural Products.](#) This project is meant to develop a long term relationship between local businesses, USDA and Cal Poly Pomona by offering local businesses an opportunity to develop marketing strategies for new product(s). We will develop relationships with local food businesses to help to increase food capacity, using the USDA as a resource, and provide small businesses with a working model for implementing their food product introduction and marketing campaigns. At the same time, businesses can provide the university with information and expertise about the changing business climate, businesses needs for the future, and what makes businesses successful. This information can help the university to be more innovative and help build our reputation as a premier institution.

Proposal Number: 2012-01882
Award Number: 2012-38422-19836
Lead Project Director: [Elizabeth Yakes](#)

Lead Institution: University of New Mexico
Award Amount: \$280,000
Project Duration: 2 years

[Interactive Learning Assessment System \(ILAS\)](#). The Nutrition Program, Department of Teacher Education, and Art, Research, Technology & Science Laboratory at the University of New Mexico will design an online instructional delivery system, *Interactive Learning Assessment System (ILAS)*, to allow instructors to build cases that will provide high school, community college, and university students with virtual experience in nutrition counseling. The ILAS provides feedback to instructors on *how* students learn, allowing them to improve their instructional methods. By improving teacher instruction and student understanding of the work of nutrition professionals, we aim to recruit, retain and graduate more underrepresented students in the UNM Nutrition Program.

Proposal Number: 2012-01885
Award Number: 2012-38422-19825
Lead Project Director: [Julio Blanco](#)

Lead Institution: California State University , Bakersfield
Award Amount: \$295,000
Project Duration: 2 years

[Broadening Access to Modern STEAM Education in the High Needs Southern San Joaquin Valley.](#) California State University, Bakersfield School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering will develop a new agricultural sciences concentration, the first step towards developing a comprehensive agriculture degree at CSUB. Interdisciplinary courses will be developed and related sciences courses will be redesigned to integrate hands-on, problem-based learning with an emphasis on regional agriculture needs. Hispanics will have the opportunity to earn a high quality degree that will prepare them to be successful agriculture professionals. One full scholarship and financial assistance to 3 other students will be provided. Outreach activities will inform local Hispanics of educational opportunities and rewarding careers in agriculture.

Proposal Number: 2012-01933
Award Number: 2012-38422-19865-
Lead Project Director: [Jennifer Lindline](#)

Lead Institution: New Mexico Highlands University
Award Amount: \$295,000
Project Duration: 3 years

[Geospatial Applications in Natural Sciences \(GAINS\)](#). New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) currently enrolls more than 60 Natural Resources Management (NRM) majors; 75% are underrepresented minority (UM) students. We project 50% enrollment increases over the next 3 years. We plan focused advising, early academic intervention, and a Geographic Information System (GIS)-enhanced curriculum to increase the number of UM students graduating with NRM B.S. degrees and GIS skills. Graduates will have the competencies to collect, manage, manipulate, and share geospatial agricultural data as well as to contribute to the sustainment of rural agriculture and management of natural resources impacted by climatic changes.

Proposal Number: 2012-01901

Award Number: 2012-38422-19864

Lead Project Director: [Katherine Krolkowski](#)

Lead Institution: Contra Costa Community College

Award Amount: \$295,000

Project Duration: 3 years

[USDA Scholars at Contra Costa College.](#) USDA Scholars at Contra Costa College in San Pablo, CA will be gaining hands-on laboratory skills to equip them for careers in agricultural research. In beginning science courses, students are introduced to the impact of biological sciences in addressing global food security and hunger issues. Motivated Hispanic and low-income students will receive financial, personal, and academic support as they take on the challenge of biotechnology courses. Successful students will serve as peer mentors and participate in paid summer laboratory internships at USDA, UC's, and biotechnology industry facilities.

Proposal Number: 2012-01866

Award Number: 2012-38422-19833

Lead Project Director: [Zahi Atallah](#)

Lead Institution: Hartnell Community College

Award Amount: \$250,000

Project Duration: 2 years

[Hartnell College Agricultural Workforce Development HSI Project for Global Food Security and Hunger \(Horticulture Technician Program\).](#) Hartnell College's Agricultural Workforce Development HSI project will implement critical training programs in two occupational areas for which there is high, long-term agriculture industry demand: pest management advisor and horticulture technician. The project will help the regional \$4 billion agriculture industry meet a need for qualified high skill workers to advance sustainability and competitiveness. When implemented, the project will offer an Agricultural Business Technology AS degree program with an emphasis in pest management, and a Horticulture Technology Certificate program. It will increase representation by Hispanics in high skill agricultural jobs and strengthen agricultural education for students, faculty and industry.

Supplement Award

Proposal Number: 2012-03817

Award Number: 2011-38422-30816

Lead Project Director: [JoAnn Canales](#)

Lead Institution: Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

Award Amount: \$65,039

Project Duration: 1 year

[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.

Collaboration (Continuation) Projects – 2nd Year

Proposal Number: 2012-02298
Award Number: 2011-38422-30826
Lead Project Director: [Shad Nelson](#)

Lead Institution: Texas A & M, Kingsville
Award Amount: \$850,000
Project Duration: 1 year

[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.

Proposal Number: 2012-02301
Award Number: 2011-38422-31204
Lead Project Director: [Julie Lappin](#)

Lead Institution: CSU, San Bernardino
Award Amount: \$550,000
Project Duration: 1 year

[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.

Proposal Number: 2012-02181
Award Number: 2011-38422-30947
Lead Project Director: [Martha Desmond](#)

Lead Institution: New Mexico State University
Award Amount: \$850,000
Project Duration: 1 year

[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.

Proposal Number: 2012-02180

Lead Institution: Texas State University, San Marcos

Award Number: 2011-38422-30832

Award Amount: \$862,000

Lead Project Director: [Douglas G. Morrish](#)

Project Duration: 1 year

Food Safety and Agroterrorism 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.

Proposal Number: 2012-02299

Lead Institution: University of Texas, El Paso

Award Number: 2011-38422-30803

Award Amount: \$850,000

Lead Project Director: [Heidi T. Jimenez](#)

Project Duration: 1 year

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.

Proposal Number: 2012-02177

Lead Institution: University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

Award Number: 2011-38422-30835

Award Amount: \$850,000

Lead Project Director: [Felix R. Roman](#)

Project Duration: 1 year

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.

Proposal Number: 2012-02300

Award Number: 2011-38422-30804

Lead Project Director: [Mahadev Bhat](#)

Lead Institution: Florida International University

Award Amount: \$850,000

Project Duration: 1 year

[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.