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FACT SHEET

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (NIFA) VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM, OFFERED BY THE Institute of Youth, Family, and Community, Division of Family & Consumer Sciences (FCS), advances collaboration between NIFA and our land-grant university partners. The program provides an opportunity for FCS faculty and administrators to enhance their professional growth while working with federal-level colleagues.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

At NIFA, FCS Visiting Scholars:

- work with NIFA colleagues to advance knowledge through a process of mutual learning;
- enhance collaborations and professional development through strategic networking and meaningful projects;
- connect to critical federal and national partners to expand opportunities and resources; and
- foster greater understanding of the land-grant university system and the partnership from the federal perspective.

Participants will learn about NIFA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture and connect with partnering federal agencies and national organizations to accomplish key initiatives of NIFA and the land-grant system. The visiting scholar will provide NIFA with scope of work, a final presentation, and a report at the end of the visit. The scholar's institution will support the scholar with salary and living expenses while the scholar is in Washington, DC. NIFA will provide work space and tech support in the Institute of Youth, Family, and Community. The visit can last anywhere from several days to three months.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A FCS Visiting Scholars Program applicant should be an administrator or faculty member with a teaching, research, and/or

extension appointment in family & consumer sciences, human sciences, rural sociology, or a related discipline at a land-grant university.

Students pursuing a bachelor's or a master's degree in the field of family & consumer sciences or human sciences at a land-grant college or university are also encouraged to apply for a visiting scholar appointment.

APPLICATION PACKAGE

Applicants must submit the following:

- a cover letter that includes your name, institution, area of expertise, and suggested date and length of visit;
- a letter of institutional support from the university administration stating their commitment to pay salary, benefits, and expenses during your participation;
- a letter of approval from the dean or department chair;
- a curriculum vitae; and
- an essay (not more than 1,500 words) describing your interest in NIFA, field or fields of interest, and how you envision the program will influence you and your university's work. Also, describe how you plan to share information acquired during your visit with colleagues, students, and other interested individuals.

WHERE TO APPLY

Via regular mail:

USDA/NIFA Division of Family & Consumer Sciences
Attn: Sylvia Montgomery
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-2225

Via express mail:

USDA/NIFA Division of Family & Consumer Sciences
Attn: Sylvia Montgomery
800 9th Street, SW
4414 Waterfront Centre
Washington, DC 20024

In addition, send the cover letter, essay, and related questions electronically to smontgomery@nifa.usda.gov.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The Visiting Scholars Program is offered throughout the year.

SELECTION PROCESS

A NIFA FCS panel will review applications and recommend candidates in priority order. Applicants will be notified as to the status of their application.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Sylvia Montgomery
tel: (202) 720-8855
email: smontgomery@nifa.usda.gov
visit: nifa.usda.gov/resource/dfcs-visiting-scholars-program-announcement