FY 2005

Hispanic-Serving Institutions
Education Grants Program

Description of Funded Projects

Multicultural Alliances
Science and Education Resources Development
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.
Proposal Number: 2005-03443  Lead Institution: Laredo Community College  
Grant Number: 05-38422-15969  Award Amount: $341,900  
Lead Project Director: Nora Garza  Project Duration: 3 years

Project Title: USDA-Texas Hispanic-Serving Institutions Consortium  
This grant funds a collaboration between Laredo Community College and the Houston Community College System to create a USDA Texas consortium to improve educational access and success for thousands of underrepresented students and to build institutional capacity through different efforts. The consortium will support USDA Strategic Goal 1 - to enhance economic opportunity for agricultural producers and focus on instructional delivery systems, student recruitment and student retention. Texas HSIs will collaborate to retain Hispanic students by providing increased public awareness of USDA programs and by providing financial assistance, a major barrier for underrepresented students. Accomplishments will be disseminated through a conference and a dedicated website.

Proposal Number: 2005-03444  Lead Institution: Sul Ross State University  
Grant Number: 05-38422-15926  Award Amount: $230,000  
Lead Project Director: Jeff Pendergraft  Project Duration: 3 years

Proposal Number: 2005-03449  Lead Institution: CSU - Dominguez Hills  
Grant Number: 05-38422-15941  Award Amount: $250,000  
Lead Project Director: James Strong  Project Duration: 2 years

Project Title: Preparing Underrepresented Animal Science Students for Success  
This award funds a PROJECT TO RECRUIT AND THEN PREPARE UNDERREPRESENTED ANIMAL SCIENCE STUDENTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY THROUGH EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING. To achieve this goal, Sul Ross State University (SRSU) will focus on the following objectives: 1) develop a mentoring program where incoming Animal Science students can shadow graduate students during research projects; 2) provide financial assistance for students completing the mentoring program; 3) acquire state-of-the-art instrumentation and livestock equipment; 4) restructure Animal Science courses to provide a realistic workplace experience for the development of valuable real-life skills; and 5) strengthen underrepresented student recruitment and retention in the Animal Science programs. The project directly addresses the need of providing science-based technology, products, and information to promote the efficiency of agricultural production systems.

Project Title: A Cooperative Initiative In Agribusiness Management to Enhance International Trade and Marketing in Southern California  
This award funds a project to develop a curriculum in global logistics and supply chain management to address the educational and employment demands of the growing international agricultural trade business in California. Industrial and educational partnerships will be established to provide internships and employment opportunities for students.
Proposal Number: 2005-03455  
Grant Number: 05-38422-15966  
Lead Project Director: Abner Rodriguez  
Lead Institution: UPR-Mayaguez  
Award Amount: $ 210,000  
Project Duration: 2 years

Project Title: Continuing to Enhance the Knowledge of Environmental and Molecular Biology Issues in Agricultural Sciences Students: Phase Link II
This project provides funds for sixteen students to participate in a research topic of their choice and experience challenging environmental and molecular biological aspects related to agriculture production. Research efforts will be presented by students in professional meetings. Faculty involved in the project will offer workshops to disseminate their latest research findings to a potential future clientele of high school students. Publications on student research efforts will be sent to Vocational Agriculture Technical Schools. The program includes developing summer internship training for incoming freshman at the Tropical Agriculture Research Station.

Proposal Number: 2005-03468  
Grant Number: 05-38422-15925  
Lead Project Director: Edward Kennelly  
Lead Institution: CUNY- Lehman College  
Award Amount: $ 350,000  
Project Duration: 3 years

Project Title: Leveraging a Research University Partnership to Enhance Minority Students’ Laboratory Skills
This award funds a collaboration project between Lehman College of the City University of New York (CUNY), a Hispanic-Serving Institution in the Bronx, and Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh to create enhanced Biology and Chemistry educational opportunities for students underrepresented in the sciences. USDA funds will be used to: train CUNY faculty and students in the use of state-of-the-art scientific instruments; upgrade existing facilities; and hire technical support staff. CUNY students will participate in summer internships at Carnegie Mellon, and one CUNY undergraduate will be awarded a graduate fellowship at Carnegie Mellon.

Proposal Number: 2005-03478  
Grant Number: 05-38422-15942  
Lead Project Director: Warren Furomoto  
Lead Institution: CSU - Northridge  
Award Amount: $ 200,000  
Project Duration: 2 years

Project Title: Urban Agricultural Initiative
This award funds CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIIDGE (CSUN), THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF CHICANA/O STUDIES, WILL CONDUCT THE URBAN AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVE (UAI) PROJECT. THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS PROJECT IS TO ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY SERVICES OPTION THAT INCLUDES AN AGRO-FOOD SYSTEMS COURSE. THROUGH SERVICE LEARNING, STUDENTS WILL INITIATE AN URBAN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME LATINA/O FAMILIES TO GROW PRODUCE USING A BIO-INTENSIVE TECHNIQUE, CALLED “SQUARE FOOT GARDENING.” WITH LOCAL CBO’S AS PARTNERS, STUDENTS WILL LEARN ABOUT THE AGRO-FOOD SYSTEM FROM PRODUCTION TO DISTRIBUTION AND WILL ESTABLISH A YEAR ROUND OPERATION OF VEGETABLE PRODUCTION TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY IN THE COMMUNITY.
Proposal Number: 2005-03481  Lead Institution: NM-State University
Grant Number: 05-38422-15934  Award Amount: $ 300,000
Lead Project Director: Carmen Gonzales  Project Duration: 3 years

Project Title: Savor: Student Access Via Online Resources
This award will fund activities at New Mexico State University (NMSU). NMSU presently offers New Mexico’s only baccalaureate degree granting program in Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management. SAVOR: Student Access via Online Resources will support increasing diversity in Hotel, Restaurant, and Tourism Management (HRTM) by providing Northern New Mexico Community College and graduates at other two-year institutions with an opportunity to earn a four-year degree. Students will be mentored as they complete distance and face-to-face HRTM coursework. Northern New Mexico’s growing tourism industry has an ever-expanding need for qualified professionals. Labor shortages are expected to increase as national employment in this field grows by 22.2 million jobs between 2000 and 2010.

Proposal Number: 2005-03485  Lead Institution: TAMU-Kingsville
Grant Number: 05-38422-14610  Award Amount: $ 200,000
Lead Project Director: Diana Doan-Crider  Project Duration: 2 years

Project Title: Developing Undergraduate Student Professional Competencies in Agricultural Sciences Through Experiential Learning
This award will fund training of underrepresented undergraduate students in south Texas. Students will learn about employment opportunities related to agriculture outside of Texas, or about the latest technological skills that will increase access to jobs. Through a grant, students at Texas A&M University-Kingsville will visit 7 western and Midwestern states to learn about advanced geographic information systems technology that will prepare them for the job market. In addition, students will participate in internships that will introduce them to agricultural research and data collection.

Proposal Number: 2005-03486  Lead Institution: UT- San Antonio
Grant Number: 05-38422-15970  Award Amount: $ 350,000
Lead Project Director: Paul Jurena  Project Duration: 2 years

Project Title: Building A Research Based Bridge Between a HSI and A Land-Grant University for Graduate Studies in Environmental Sciences
This award funds collaboration between the University of Texas - San Antonio (UTSA) and Texas A&M to build a permanent bridge to produce a beneficial research and academic collaboration between a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) and a Land-Grant Institution (LGI). The project will enhance the newly developed doctoral program at UTSA’s Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences and the Institute of Research in Water and Environmental Resources. A research component will enhance undergraduate and graduate programs in environmental sciences and facilitate the recruitment of HSI students into doctoral studies at LGIs and HSIs.
Proposal Number: 2005-03488  Lead Institution: Florida International University
Grant Number: 05-38422-15940  Award Amount: $223,000
Lead Project Director: Mahadev Bhat  Project Duration: 2 years

Project Title: Curricular Development and Capacity Building in Agroecology Sciences
This project will implement a new 18-credit hour curriculum program, called Agro-Ecology and the Urban Landscape (AEUL), to attract students into agriculture sciences from a large urban minority community in South Florida. This project is based in the Environmental Studies Department (ESD) at Florida International University (FIU), and implemented in collaboration with the Archbold Biological Station’s MacArthur Agro-Ecology Research Center (MAERC), Miami Dade College (MDC), and USDA Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS). The AEUL program includes experimental learning, an undergraduate certificate, graduate track, scholarships, field apprenticeship and high school student/teacher training.

Proposal Number: 2005-03493  Lead Institution: NM-State University
Grant Number: 05-38422-15960  Award Amount: $349,700
Lead Project Director: Martha Desmond  Project Duration: 3 years

Project Title: Student Experiential Learning in a Multicultural Environment Through Agency Internships and an International Semester Exchange Program
This award funds a collaboration among New Mexico State University, the USDA Forest Service and the Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua and targets the recruitment, retention and improved academic performance of under-represented student groups in the natural resource sciences through summer internships and a cross border international exchange program. This project will introduce students to careers with natural resource agencies, give students valuable research experience, and will broaden student perspectives of natural resource management to an international scale. This program targets 21 students from NMSU for summer internships, 10 students from both NMSU and UACH for the international exchange program and 1 graduate student.

Proposal Number: 2005-03497  Lead Institution: Miami Dade College
Grant Number: 05-38422-15977  Award Amount: $200,000
Lead Project Director: J. Graham Smart  Project Duration: 2 years

Project Title: Agricultural Career Exploration
This award funds Miami Dade College North Campus to launch a two-year project (2005-07) to increase the number of minorities holding skilled jobs in agriculture. Agricultural Career Exploration (ACE) will include a six-week course for 30 high school graduates. Project participants may pursue credit certificate programs or an Associate’s degree, providing them with ‘employment-ready’ skills in native plant cultivation and greenhouse operations. Project ACE will offer career advisement, financial aid, placement and transfer assistance.
Proposal Number: 2005-03626  
Lead Institution: CSU-Fresno  
Grant Number: 05-38422-15956  
Award Amount: $328,000  
Lead Project Director: James Casey  
Project Duration: 3 years

Project Title: Bridging the Gap (Gateway to Agriculture Professions)
This award supports outreach and recruitment efforts between California State University - Fresno and Fresno City College. “Bridging the GAP (Gateway to Agriculture Professions)” links multi-disciplinary classroom instruction to careers in agriculture. The program targets instructors, career counselors, students, and parents who typically limit their thinking of jobs in agriculture to field labor, a familiar source of employment in the fertile lands of California’s Central San Joaquin Valley. Activities include year round Ag Club traveling seminars and two-week Summer Bridge programs, providing direct exposure to the many careers available in the agriculture industry, educational requirements, and related programs offered at the university.

Proposal Number: 2005-03627  
Lead Institution: CSU-Stanislaus  
Grant Number: 05-38422-15955  
Award Amount: $103,777  
Lead Project Director: Eric Houk  
Project Duration: 2 years

Project Title: Underrepresented Students In Agricultural Studies: Strengthening The 2+2 Transfer Model Through Recruitment and Retention
This award funds a PROJECT to strengthen a partnership between California State University - Stanislaus (CSU Stanislaus) and several community colleges to increase the recruitment and support of underrepresented students completing a bachelor’s degree in Agricultural Studies from CSU - Stanislaus. This activity will be accomplished by reducing the barriers that limit the transfer of underrepresented students, providing student services that increase retention and program completion, and strengthening the new agricultural studies program to better meet the needs of agricultural employers. The project will help prepare underrepresented students for lifelong careers within the food and agricultural industries of the United States.

Proposal Number: 2005-03630  
Lead Institution: TAMU - Kingsville  
Grant Number: 05-38422-15945  
Award Amount: $300,000  
Lead Project Director: Michelle Garcia  
Project Duration: 2 years

Project Title: Enhancing Professional Career Development of South Texas Graduate Students
This award is directed toward Hispanics that are largely underrepresented in Food and Agricultural Science careers that require advanced degrees. Underrepresentation is due to the relatively low number of Hispanics pursuing advanced degrees. Total student enrollment at Texas A&M University-Kingsville is approximately 61 percent Hispanic. Using the Animal Science discipline as a model from which to build upon, the project will provide the financial resources needed to recruit and train 6 students for a graduate program. Furthermore, collaboration with other institutions, including USDA-ARS, will provide students with enhanced training opportunities tailored to provide a seamless transition into Ph.D. programs.
Proposal Number: 2005-03641  Lead Institution: St. Philip’s College  
Grant Number: 05-38422-15971  Award Amount: $348,500  
Lead Project Director: Mary Kunz  Project Duration: 2 years

Project Title: Culinary Arts Student Achievement
This award will support the implementation of Proyecto Alimento: Success in Food and Nutrition. Hispanics lag behind other groups in college graduation rates and the prevalence of obesity continues to increase. This project aims to increase the number of underrepresented students and Hispanic students who obtain a baccalaureate degree in Nutrition. St. Philip’s College (SPC) and University of the Incarnate Word (UIW), both Hispanic-Serving Institutions in San Antonio, Texas, will collaborate to increase the number of Hispanic students who enroll in the SPC Culinary Arts program, remain enrolled, and then transfer to UIW to complete a degree in Nutrition.

Proposal Number: 2005-03647  Lead Institution: UPR-Rio Piedras  
Grant Number: 05-38422-15961  Award Amount: $250,000  
Lead Project Director: Michelle Santos  Project Duration: 3 years

Project Title: Enrichment of Laboratory and Research Experiences of Hispanic Undergraduate and Graduate Students of the Nutrition and Dietetics Program
This collaborative project between UPR, Rio Piedras, and the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging, Boston, will promote healthier food choices and lifestyles by stimulating education and research in nutritional biochemistry among Nutrition and Dietetics students. A Biochemistry lab will be equipped with scientific instrumentation, and the curriculum enriched. One student will receive a scholarship to complete his B.S. degree and initiate graduate studies at Tufts School of Nutrition.

Proposal Number: 2005-03652  Lead Institution: University of New Mexico  
Grant Number: 05-38422-15954  Award Amount: $248,500  
Lead Project Director: Karen Heller  Project Duration: 5 years

Project Title: Curriculum Enhancement and Creation of a Multi-Purpose Food Laboratory for a Nutrition/Dietetics Program
This award will fund a project that focuses on the creation of modern facilities for teaching food science and food-related content in nutrition courses at the University of New Mexico. Specific course content will be redesigned to enhance student learning in food science, food safety, food production, food demonstration and multicultural aspects of food by increasing food-handling experience. The project will also work to improve retention of underrepresented students in the Nutrition/Dietetics Program at UNM. Culinary experts at Albuquerque Technical Vocational Institute and an advisory committee of local experts on Hispanic foods and culture will assist in all aspects of the project.