



News for Stakeholders

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From the Desk of the Intern—Student Opportunities at APHIS

By Valerie Jojola

The summer is an excellent time for college students to catch up on sleep, visit with friends, and generally relax—or so most people think. The truth, though, is that many students, including me, choose to spend our summers working, learning new skills in fast-paced environments, and meeting new people. We are APHIS' summer interns: the fresh faces that help as much as we can wherever we can. While summer is most often associated with internships, the reality is that APHIS offers students engaging opportunities year round as well as scholarships. I'm interning with APHIS through the Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS), but this is only one of several ways students can come to work for APHIS.

USDA's Student Employment Program (SEP) is another way students can become interns. To apply, all you need to do is submit your resumé online. APHIS also works in conjunction with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) to bring qualified and energetic interns into their offices. Online applications are available for both WINS and HACU and, speaking from personal experience, I can say you will not regret looking into the opportunities they offer. [USAJobs](#) is another great place to see what internships are available.

Students attending an 1890 Land Grant Institution, such as Alabama A&M University, West Virginia State College, or Lincoln University, might be eligible to apply for the USDA 1890 National Scholars Program. For students planning to obtain degrees in agriculture or another related field, such as botany, animal science, or soil science, the 1890 Scholarship Program is a good way to learn about the possibilities a career in USDA provides. The program gives numerous benefits to those involved, including financial aid, paid employment during school breaks, and a potential job upon graduation.

APHIS also offers three scholarships: the William F. Helms Student Scholarship, the Saul T. Wilson, Jr. Scholarship Program, and the Daniel E. Salmon Scholarship Program. Students interested in the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) division of APHIS should investigate the Helms Scholarship, particularly if they are seeking degrees in agriculture or the biological sciences. This scholarship provides financial aid, mentoring, paid work experience during school breaks, and the possibility of permanent employment upon



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graduation. The Wilson Scholarship Program is for undergraduate and graduate students studying veterinary medicine or the biomedical sciences. Along with money for school, paid employment during school breaks, and possible permanent employment at graduation, this program enables students to gain real-world experience in their future field. The application deadline for both scholarships is March 1, but it is never too early to plan ahead. The Daniel E. Salmon Scholarship Program is a recent addition to APHIS' scholarship opportunities and is geared toward undergraduate and graduate students interested in veterinary science. It also provides scholarship money, the opportunity to work for APHIS during the summers, and the possibility of employment upon graduation ([click here](#) to view a brochure).

[Click here](#) to get more information about all the opportunities APHIS has available for students and help open the doors for motivated young people who want to pursue careers in agriculture!