



**Application Deadline: May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 EXTENDED! June 1, 2018**  
**Exciting Opportunity** for Tribal College and University Students  
**APPLY NOW!** For a 2-week Summer Research Experience at the  
**Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland**

**Who:** This summer, eight Tribal College and University (TCU) students will be selected to participate in the Native American Students Summer Learning Experience (NASSLE) from July 15-28, 2018 in Washington, D.C.

This opportunity is offered by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), one of 17 agencies housed within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As the nation’s agricultural research arm, ARS finds solutions to agricultural problems that affect Americans every day from field to table.

ARS conducts research to develop solutions to agricultural problems of national priority and provides information to:

- Ensure high-quality, safe food, and other agricultural products;
- Assess the nutritional needs of Americans;
- Sustain a competitive agricultural economy;
- Enhance the natural resource base and the environment;
- Provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole; and
- Provide the infrastructure necessary to create and maintain a diversified workplace.

**What:** NASSLE provides TCU students an opportunity to learn about the breadth of agricultural research that is done in the ARS laboratories in Beltsville, MD on behalf of farmers and the general population to support a robust food supply that is safe and nutritious. Part of the NASSLE experience will include students being paired with researchers and staff in a lab that is related to their research interests.

In addition, speakers from other USDA agencies such as Forest Service will present to the students and students will tour facilities and laboratories in the region including the following:

- Animal facilities and the agricultural fields where specialized crops are grown;
- Northeast Area sites that have expertise in aquaculture;
- U.S. National Arboretum;
- Human Nutrition Research Center, one of the six major centers in the country;

- Beltsville Hydrology Laboratory;
- Environmental Research Laboratory;
- Other field trips designed to complement research interests available at their local colleges may also be included, such as, the University of Maryland at College Park environmental sciences laboratory.

**Where:** ARS Eastern Region Headquarters located in Beltsville, MD. (6 miles from downtown D.C.)

**When:**

- Announcement posted: ~~April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.~~ Reposted May 4, 2018.
- Application Due: ~~May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.~~ Extended to June 1, 2018.
- Selection Notification to Students: by May 15, 2018 (Round 1). By June 15, 2018 (Round 2)
- Program Dates: July 15-28, 2018 (travel July 15 and July 28)

**How:** Complete Application Package

- *E-mail to:* [1994@osec.usda.gov](mailto:1994@osec.usda.gov)
  - *Subject Line:* NASSLE
  - *Body of e-mail:* Include your full name, phone number, e-mail address, and mailing address.
- *Essay:* 1-3 pages. Describe your research experience and interests. Why are you interested in this area of inquiry? What excites you about: science; science related to agriculture, food, nutrition, etc.; and/or your research area of interest? If your interest relates to needs in your community please describe the relationship.
- *Letters of recommendation:* 2 (preferably from faculty or someone who is familiar with your abilities)
- *GPA:* minimum 2.5 overall; (must have taken some science and math courses)
- *Transcripts:* send all official transcripts from colleges and universities attended. High school students preparing to enter their first year at a TCU should submit high school transcripts.
- *Mail transcripts and letters of recommendation to:*
  - USDA 1994 Tribal Colleges and Universities Program
  - For NASSLE
  - 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Ste 530-A
  - Washington, D.C. 20250-0603
- *Direct Questions to:* [1994@osec.usda.gov](mailto:1994@osec.usda.gov) or 202-205-2319.

Selection: Is based on student overall application package; student essay; research interests; and alignment with research scientists at ARS in Beltsville.

Award Package Includes:

- *Lodging:* Lodging is provided near the lab at the newly constructed Holiday Inn Express. Students are assigned two persons per room.
- *Transportation:* Airfare is included. The hotel has a shuttle service that will transport participants to and from the lab and hotel.
- *Meals:* Breakfast is included at the hotel and a weekly stipend is provided to cover the cost of lunch and dinner.

ARS Labs and Facilities in the Region Include:

- WASHINGTON, DC
  - National Arboretum
  - Facilities Unit
  - Floral and Nursery Plants Research
  - Gardens Unit
  
- BELTSVILLE, MD
  - Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center
  - Diet, Genomics and Immunology Laboratory
  - Food Components and Health Laboratory
  - Food Composition and Methods Development Laboratory
  - Food Surveys Research Group
  - Human Study Unit
  - Nutrient Data Laboratory
  - Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
  - Animal Biosciences & Biotechnology Laboratory
  - Animal Genomics and Improvement Laboratory
  - Animal Parasitic Diseases Laboratory
  - Bee Research Laboratory
  - Crop Systems and Global Change Laboratory
  - Environmental Microbial & Food Safety Laboratory
  - Facilities Division
  - Food Quality Laboratory
  - Genetic Improvement for Fruits & Vegetables Laboratory
  - Hydrology and Remote Sensing Laboratory
  - Invasive Insect Biocontrol & Behavior Laboratory
  - Molecular Plant Pathology Laboratory
  - National Germplasm Resources Laboratory
  - Nematology Laboratory
  - Research Support Services
  - Soybean Genomics & Improvement Laboratory
  - Sustainable Agricultural Systems Laboratory
  - Sustainable Perennial Crops Laboratory
  - Systematic Entomology Laboratory
  - Systematic Mycology & Microbiology Laboratory
  
- FREDERICK, MD
  - Foreign Disease-weed Science Research