

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM WITH THE USDA

USDA's Agricultural Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Bogota, Colombia, has alerted us to an innovative internship program for university students. The Virtual Student Foreign Service (VSFS) program is an eight-month internship program for students (U.S. citizens) working remotely from their schools, while expanding the efforts of the U.S. Government. VSFS is managed by the Office of eDiplomacy in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Information Resource Management. USDA in Colombia has designed four projects for the VSFS program (please see attached descriptions).

Student applications for the 2017-18 VSFS program will be accepted on USAJOBS.gov from July 2-26, 2017. Please read all instructions carefully. Additional information is available at http://vsfs.state.gov/faq#student_faqs.

Please pass this opportunity along to students on your campus who may be interested in this unique agricultural development opportunity.

A-STEP

Howdy!

My name is Keya Mukherjee and I am the Outreach Officer for Aggies in Science, Technology and Engineering Policy (A-STEP), a university recognized organization. We are a Science Policy group on campus with the mission of encouraging more scientists to take an active interest in science policy. Based on the fact that money for research comes from research grants distributed by federal agencies, we feel every scientist should play a part in advocating for increased research funding. We encourage active conversations between scientists and lawmakers to promote proper implementation of policies based on facts.

Throughout the year we hold regular seminars on topics that discuss the synergistic effects science and policy have on one another. Further we host professional development seminars focused on improving communication skills with non-scientific audiences and participate in several outreach events each year. Recently, ASTEP was responsible for organizing the BCS March for Science event that took place on campus on April 22nd.

We are currently trying to expand our organization and are actively seeking new members. We are also particularly interested in recruiting departmental representatives who will act as a liaison between the organization and the department. As our organization grows we want to ensure that students from all aspects of science and policy are represented to encourage a broad dialog on the issues that affect us all. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at keya.mukh@tamu.edu.

