Awards issued prior to January 20, 2025, were funded under previous Administrations and may not reflect the priorities and policies of the current Administration.

United States Department of Agriculture
Project Initiation

Project Data for Accession Number 1028657

Project Title

A Pipeline To Enhance The Competitiveness Of Underrepresented Scholars For Entry Into Agriculture, Scientific And Professional Careers

Project Details

Sponsoring Institution National Institute of Food and Agriculture	**Project Status** ACTIVE
Funding Source NIFA Non Formula	**Grant Year** 2022
Grant No. 2022-77040-37622	**Cumulative Award Amt.** $999,786.00
Proposal No. 2022-02628	**Multistate No.** (N/A)
Project Start Date Sep 01, 2022	**Project End Date** Aug 31, 2027
Program Code [NJ] Hispanic Serving Institutions Education Grants Program	

Project Director

Hernandez-Gifford, J.

Recipient Organization

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

1050 STEWART ST.

LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88003

Performing Department

Animal and Range Sciences

Non Technical Summary

The goal of this project is to form a pipeline between New Mexico State University (NMSU) and California State University, Chico (CSU-CHICO) to enhance access to graduate student training and competitiveness of underrepresented groups in the nation's agriculture, and scientific work force. Within the Primary Discipline of Food and Agricultural Sciences we propose to train 15 undergraduate students, and 10 graduate students. The program will take advantage of CSU-Chico's strong undergraduate Animal Science program and NMSU's demonstrated history of successful graduate student training. The student pipeline will provide faculty and peer mentoring, innovative and training opportunities in research, extension and education development. Students from underrepresented groups will be recruited to enter the program in cohorts and participate in faculty-led research projects and summer internship experiences resulting in research presentations at professional conferences. Expected outcomes include acquisition of

technical and professional competency, including oral and written communication, critical thinking, and problem solving as well as developing leadership skills. These competencies will ready undergraduate students to successfully transition to graduate programs, in particular NMSU's Animal and Range Science program. Graduate students will benefit from the established excellence in graduate student training at NMSU including conducting and disseminating research, serving as teaching assistants and participation at the campus farms. Additionally, graduate students will enrich their leadership skills in part by serving as mentors for undergraduate students in each cohort.

Animal Health Component

Animal Health Component: 50%

Research Effort Categories

Basic	0%
Applied	0%
Developmental	0%

Classification

Knowledge Area (KA)	Subject of Investigation (SOI)	Field of Science (FOS)	Percent
305	3999	1060	100%

Knowledge Area

[305] Animal Physiological Processes

Subject Of Investigation

[3999] Animal research, general

Field Of Science

[1060] Biology (whole systems)

Keywords

Recruitment and Retention, Innovative Training Opportunities, Underrepresented Groups

Goals / Objectives

The major goal of this proposed project is to enhance access of underrepresented groups to graduate student training and increase competitiveness of underrepresented groups in the nation's agriculture, and scientific work force. The collaborative project between NMSU and CSU-Chico aims to train 15 undergraduate students and 10 graduate students in Masters of Science programs. It is expected that students participating in this project will have increased awareness of academic and career opportunities related to Food and Agricultural Sciences. Involvement in faculty-led undergraduate research projects will enable students to gain technical and professional competencies, including oral and written communication, critical thinking, and problem solving, professional development, as well as increasing leadership skills. These competencies will ready undergraduate students to successfully transition to graduate programs, in particular NMSU's Animal and Range Science program. Additionally, graduate students will benefit from

the established excellence in graduate student training at NMSU including conducting and disseminating research, serving as teaching assistants and participation at the campus farms. Graduate students will enrich their leadership skills in part by serving as mentors for undergraduate students in each cohort. These objectives are aligned with the HSI Educational Grants Program goals to ultimately improve Hispanic representation in the Food and Agriculture Science work force by strengthening HSI's ability to carry out directed education programs.

Project Methods

This project will employ focused and engaging approaches to improve the quality of Food and Agricultural science education in an effort to address the higher education problem of low enrollment, retention and graduation of Hispanic students, and therefore advance educational equity. Faculty at both institutions will begin by promoting and informing students of this grant opportunity in undergraduate lower division classes in order for students to participate in their junior and senior years. This targeted recruitment will also have the added benefit of evaluating individual student qualifications and coaching for application to the program. Recruited students will be paired with a faculty mentor and begin participation in research activities. In addition to the above described involvement in research, undergraduate and graduate students will benefit from summer internship programs. These programs are designed to provide a hands-on learning environment, and will also be a source of career opportunities and networking. Representatives from USDA agencies and the public and private sector will be invited to the quarterly meeting to discuss career opportunities. The students will have the opportunity to choose from several internships and be introduced to the Pathways Programs at USDA agencies.