

# National Needs Graduate Fellowships

**Greater investment needed to train the next generation of policy-makers, researchers, and educators in food and agricultural sciences.**

FY 2009 marks the 25th anniversary of the National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES).

This program trains students for masters and/or doctoral degrees and provides postdoctoral training for fellows who have completed their doctoral degrees in the food and agricultural sciences. Awards support outstanding students as they pursue and complete their degrees and/or obtain postdoctoral training in areas where there is a national need for the development of scientific and professional expertise. At present there are eight areas of critical need:

- Genomics and bioinformatics in food, agriculture, and natural resource sciences.
- Natural resources and the environment, including forest ecosystem health and restoration, wood and fiber engineering, and resource economics.
- Agricultural systems engineering, including biobased products, bioenergy and food products engineering.
- Trade policy, resource economics, and economics of alternative energy.
- Food science, especially food safety and foods for health.
- Human nutrition, specifically in obesity, diet and exercise.
- Animal pathology and food animal diagnostics and other areas impacting the security of the food system.
- Training in "sustainable" sciences.

*This vital program has been repeatedly under funded and in this, its 25th year, NASULGC supports a funding increase to \$4.455 million as proposed in the President's FY 2009 budget request.*



## National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants Program has five objectives:

- Support graduate training of students, to produce workforce-ready and globally competitive personnel in the food and agricultural sciences.
- Support training to fill nationally identified areas of expertise shortage in these disciplines.
- Increase the number of outstanding students, including those from traditionally under represented groups, annually entering graduate training in higher education in the food and agricultural sciences.
- Support graduate training to develop core competencies in National Needs Fellows to meet the emerging market demands in these disciplines.
- Provide training and travel (IRTA) grants for National Needs Fellows.



## NASULGC'S PRIORITY REQUEST FOR FY 2009

- Graduate Fellowship Grants ..... \$4.455 M

**NASULGC**, A Public University Association, represents 217 U.S. universities and has members in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.

# National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Appropriations Bill</b>    | Agriculture   |
| <b>Agency</b>                 | Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA) |
| <b>Account</b>                | Research and Education Activities                                   |
| <b>Project (Program) Name</b> | Graduate Fellowship Grants  |

**Requested Amount**      **\$4,455,000**

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Authorization</b>               | 7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(6)  |
| <b>Description</b>                 | This CSREES <u>program</u> provides funding to train students for masters and/or doctoral degrees in areas of targeted expertise shortage.   |
| <b>Benefits / Impacts</b>          | The National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants program:   |
| <b>Justification / Explanation</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Supports interdisciplinary graduate training of students, to produce workforce-ready and globally competitive personnel in the food, agricultural, and bioenergy systems.</li> <li>■ Supports training to staff nationally identified areas of expertise shortage in these applied sciences currently being filled by foreign-educated graduates.</li> <li>■ Supports better training of food systems workers and researchers to meet market and population demands while improving natural resource stewardship and energy consumption.</li> <li>■ Increases the number of outstanding students, including those from traditionally under represented groups, entering graduate training and taking leadership roles in the food, agricultural, and bioenergy applied sciences, industries, and government agencies.</li> <li>■ Supports graduate training to develop core competencies in National Needs Fellows to proactively respond to the emerging market demands and social impacts in these disciplines.</li> <li>■ Provides training and travel (IRTA) grants for National Needs Fellows that will provide an educational breadth not available at a single institution.</li> </ul> |

## Funding History

| <b>FY 2009 (President's Budget)</b> | <b>FY 2008</b> | <b>FY 2007</b> | <b>FY 2006</b> | <b>FY 2005</b> | <b>FY 2004</b> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| \$4,455,000                         | \$3,675,000    | \$3,701,000    | \$3,701,000    | \$2,976,000    | \$2,883,000    |

## Misc. Information

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Matching Funds</b>          | This program does not require matching funds.   |
| <b>Final Recipients</b>        | 1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant other colleges and universities having a demonstrable capacity to carry out the teaching of food and agricultural sciences. |
| <b>Note for Senate Offices</b> | Funding is <u>not</u> being requested for this program through another appropriations bill.   |

**Additional Information** > [www.nasulgc-bac.com/kb.htm](http://www.nasulgc-bac.com/kb.htm)