The PotashCorp Executive i2i Pathway to Excellence

2015-16 Request for Applications: Purdue College of Agriculture
Application Deadline: September 4, 2015 (5 p.m.)

Globally, there is a strong desire to acquire and retain the next generation of agriculture leaders. This desire is especially true as agricultural industries strive to compete in an ever-growing global market place. Purdue University’s College of Agriculture, in partnership with Southern Illinois University’s (SIU) College of Agricultural Sciences (the lead institution), is pleased to announce a new initiative aimed at developing the next generation of highly trained executive talent with premier research, leadership, critical thinking and problem solving skills. Known as the PotashCorp Executive i2i Pathway to Excellence, this initiative is funded by PotashCorp, the world’s largest fertilizer enterprise and integrated producer of fertilizer, industrial and animal feed products (learn more about PotashCorp at http://www.potashcorp.com).

The year-long PotashCorp Executive i2i Pathway to Excellence program provides a quality on-campus undergraduate research experience to a select group of outstanding Purdue and SIU Ag students. It combines a two-semester research experience with a cross-institutional collaborative environment through which students, faculty mentors and industry representatives develop and refine their communication, networking and leadership skills (participants will receive training in executive leadership and business etiquette through the prestigious Olin School of Business at Washington University), and explore relevant issues in food, agriculture, and the environment.

Student and Faculty Mentor Funding Awards: Each student participant is eligible to receive a total of $4,000 of a paid undergraduate research assistantship over the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters. Faculty Research Mentors will receive $1,500 in support of the research program. Additionally, travel expenses and course fees for the executive training events will be provided for each student. Other expenses will be considered.

Priority Considerations and Eligibility:

1. The PotashCorp Executive i2i Pathway to Excellence program seeks research proposals that address the broadly defined theme of “Meeting the growing challenge to feed the world.”
2. At Purdue, five [5] Agriculture students will be selected to participate, and preference will be given to academically talented sophomore students. (Five students each from Purdue and SIU will be selected for the 2015-2016 school year.)
3. Faculty mentors must hold an appointment in the College of Agriculture and submit a letter of endorsement for student mentees.
4. Unlike existing Purdue Agriculture one-semester undergraduate research awards, the PotashCorp Executive i2i Pathway to Excellence program consists of a REQUIRED two-semester sequence commencing in September 2015 and concluding in April 2016.
5. Proposals will be reviewed by a panel composed of PotashCorp, SIU and Purdue personnel. We expect to notify and announce award recipients by late September 2015.

Strict Application Deadline: Friday, September 4, 2015, 5:00 PM, sent to Dr. Marcos Fernandez at mfernandez@purdue.edu (Office: AGAD 121; Phone: 765-494-8472).
The PotashCorp Executive i2i Pathway to Excellence

2015-16 Student Application: Purdue College of Agriculture

Application Deadline: Friday, September 4, 2015, 5:00 PM

Instructions: Carefully review and complete this form, returning it with the required attachments (listed below) to Dr. Marcos Fernandez, Associate Dean, Purdue College of Agriculture, AGAD 121, or e-mailed to: mfernandez@purdue.edu (Office Phone: 765-494-8472). Proposals will be reviewed by personnel from PotashCorp, SIU and Purdue University, and award recipients notified by late September 2015.

Please note, preference will be given to research proposals that address the broadly defined theme of “Meeting the growing challenge to feed the world.” Participation during two consecutive semesters (Fall 2015 and Spring 2016) is required, and the expected program completion date is May 1, 2016.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name:</th>
<th>Year in School: Fr ____ Soph ____ Jr ____</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major:</td>
<td>Transfer GPA (if applicable):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialization:</td>
<td>Purdue GPA:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone:</td>
<td>Overall Collegiate GPA:</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-mail:</td>
<td>Faculty Mentor:</td>
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Attachment #1: Student’s Prospective Research Description

- Include Descriptive Research Project Title
- Name and contact information of Faculty Mentor. (Faculty Mentor must provide a letter endorsing the research topic and the merit of the student researcher.)
- Succinct Description of Research Topic and Plan (limited to 300 words).

Attachment #2: Current Résumé of Student

Attachment #3: Student’s thoughtful responses to the following six self-assessment questions:

(Responses limited to three single-spaced pages maximum for all six questions combined):

1. Why are you seeking this research experience?
2. Why are you interested in leadership development opportunities?
3. Do you have research experience and have you explored research opportunities with faculty before now? If “yes” to either question, describe.
4. What do you believe are the major issues in agriculture today and what would you anticipate the issues to be 20 years from now?
5. What did you know about PotashCorp before preparing this application?
6. Would you be willing to consider participating in an internship with an agricultural industry partner after completion of this PotashCorp Executive i2i Pathway to Excellence experience?
The PotashCorp Executive i2i Pathway to Excellence

Purdue College of Agriculture

Instructions for 2015-16 Faculty Letter of Endorsement

Faculty members at SIU and Purdue University will serve as mentors to PotashCorp Executive i2i Pathway to Excellence students at their respective institutions. A faculty mentor will work with a student to submit the research proposal, conduct the research, analyze results, and prepare a presentation of research findings. Awards will include two semesters of an undergraduate assistantship (totaling $4,000), $1,500 in research support, plus all costs associated with attending executive leadership and business etiquette training events held in association with Washington University’s Olin School of Business. Faculty mentors will be selected by the respective college administration based upon their area of research and proven leadership.

Letter of Endorsement for Project and Student Participant

Prospective faculty participants are requested to write a letter of endorsement for their potential student mentee. The letter must be submitted by the application deadline: Friday, September 4, 2015, 5:00 PM. In addition to serving as a reference for the research topic and prospective student mentee, the letter should address the following questions:

1. Do you embrace undergraduate research experiences and what mentoring experience do you have?
2. Do you believe undergraduates should consider receiving a high level of intense leadership training? Explain why or why not.

Please submit the letter of endorsement along with any pertinent attachments to:

Dr. Marcos Fernandez, Associate Dean, Purdue College of Agriculture, AGAD 121, or e-mailed to: mfernandez@purdue.edu (Office Phone: 765-494-8472).

Complete student proposal packets must be received by the application deadline: (September 4, 2015 at 5 PM) including the student’s letter of endorsement from the faculty mentor.

Note the plan is for award recipients to be notified by late September 2015.