

## ***PWA- Undergraduate “Science-in-Action” Summer Training Program (Pilot)***

### **Objectives:**

- Strengthen partnerships between ARS and minority serving institutions (1890 Historically Black Land Grant Colleges and Universities, 1994 Land-Grant Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Hispanic Serving Institutions).
- Create internship opportunities for students attending minority serving institutions
  - Provide experience relevant to technical positions at ARS Laboratories
  - Expose students to the wide range of research performed by ARS
  - Provide opportunity for multi-year summer internships to help students determine what type of research they are passionate about
  - Increase students’ enthusiasm for ARS careers and improve their competitiveness in the workforce

### **Internships**

- Funding for the program (*TBD*) – Housing, stipends, USDA support, University/College support, host lab support, Student contribution
- Type of appointment: 180-day LA appointment (3 summer maximum)
- Potential college credit (*TBD*)
- PWA SYs will be queried for interest in providing internship opportunities and for types of experience they can provide (Informational sheets to colleges and universities)
- Matching of students to mentors
- Students must apply for internships: can indicate which labs they may be interested in for placement
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year internships contingent upon successful completion of prior year(s)

### **Applicant Requirements**

- Must be currently enrolled in and have attended a minority serving institution for at least one year, and be majoring in Agriculture/Science related field
- Have a cumulative 3.0 GPA and U.S. Citizenship or Permanent Resident status
- Complete application (provide transcripts and references)

### **Expected Outcomes**

- Strategy to support, encourage, and provide resources to groups underrepresented in the USDA-ARS PWA workforce
- Increased ARS exposure to students in minority serving institutions
- Development of a more diverse and inclusive workplace to capitalize on skills and perspectives from different cultural backgrounds
- Increased networking opportunities for underrepresented groups