

Florida-Caribbean Consortium for Agricultural Education and Hispanic Workforce Development (FCCAgE)

Award No. 2011-38422-30804
Amount: \$825,000 (Third Year Renewal)

NIFA PRIORITY AREAS

STRATEGIC GOALS:

❖ Protect and enhance nation's natural resource base

PRIORITY AREAS

❖ Attract under-represented groups
❖ Enhance institutional educational capacity through instrumentation and on-campus organic garden

EDUCATIONAL NEED AREAS

❖ Under-represented students
❖ Innovate instructional delivery
❖ Experiential and experimental learning

HSI NEED AREAS

❖ Number of degrees in agriculture and food sciences

OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Recruit and graduate a minimum 49 Hispanic undergraduate students and five graduate students.
- ▶ Train students in plant, natural resources, and food sciences through curricular enrichment and expansion, and scientifically rigorous, technologically appealing, socially interactive instructional delivery systems.
- ▶ Establish a number of experiential, experimental and community outreach programs.
- ▶ Help place at least 75% of Hispanic and other minority graduates of the FCCAgE in USDA and other federal agencies through a rigorous professional advancement and career development programs.

PROJECT TEAM

Florida International University
Dr. Mahadev Bhat, PD
Dr. Krish Jayachandran, Co-PD
Dr. Adriana Campa, Co-PD
Dr. Suzanne Koptur, Co-PD
Dr. Kateel Shetty, Co-PD
Dr. Eric von Wettberg, Co-PD
Dr. Jeffery Onsted, Collaborator
Ms. Stephany Alvarez-Ventura, Program Coordinator

St. Thomas University
Dr. Dora Pilar Maul, Co-PD

Inter-American University, Puerto Rico
Dr. Angela Gonzalez, Co-PD

Miami Dade College-North:
Prof. Loretta Adoghe, Co-PD
Dr. Clemente Fernandez, Collaborator
Dr. Steve Ritter, Collaborator

Non-HSI Partners:
Dr. Stewart Reed, USDA ARS
Mr. Vladimir Diaz, USDA Hispanic Program

HSI MEMBERS



NON-HSI MEMBERS



PROJECT ACTIVITIES



Performance Indicators

Objectives and Indicators for Success	
Objective 1 (Recruit and graduate 49 undergrad and 5 graduate students)	
Total number of Students served	The grant served 73 students: • 71 undergraduate student: 97% • 2 graduate student: 3% • 79.4% (58 students) Hispanic, 16% (12) Black, and 4.1% (3) White.
Total percent of retention	85% Retention.
Comparison of female success	• Grant serves 38 Female Students: 52% • 81.6% (31) Hispanic, 15.8% (6) Black, and 2.6% (1) White. • 7 Graduated and 5 dropped
Total number of student hours advising	3000 hours with all students combined
Total # of degrees awarded with USDA qualifications	11
Objective 2: Train Students in sciences through curricular enrichment/interactive technology	
Comparison of GPAs before and after	Before: 3.313 After: 3.296
Developing curriculum a for required USDA courses	17 (2 colloquium, 5 course with Agri-science infusion, 6 Agroecology training workshops, and 4 online course modules
Agri-science course infusion faculty awards	1
Technology and social media integration	Completed: website, I-clickers, Facebook group, and English language and plant analysis software implemented.
Objective 3: Establish Experiential, Experimental, and community outreach for USDA skills	
Total number of students in experiential learning (research) mentoring	55
Total number of participants presenting	50 student presentations
Total number of student publication	1 peer reviewed/ 50 other publications
Total number of USDA Agencies and Partners	3 (USDA) and 11 (non-USDA)
Total number of internships (USDA vs. other)	(41) Total, including, (15) ARS, (10) APHIS, (1) FSIS, and (14) Non-USDA
K-12 activities	>20 school activities, + 10 high school interns
Community engagement activities	40 activities
Objective 4: Place students in USDA through professional development training	
Total number of Professional Development	20
Total number of Agri-science symposiums	3
Total number of Agroecology Workshops	6
Tracking student placement into jobs or Ph.D	Transfer rate: 1 student transferred to FIU, 3 students that graduated applied to graduate programs
Track research activities/English skills	90% are proficient in English. (up 14%)
Evaluation	
Budget implementation	90%
Program activities/implementation	100% recruitment, 70% curriculum innovation and instructional delivery, 100% experiential and experimental training, and 100% internship and career development activities.
Agency-participant survey	in progress.

2013 Activities



Above: Joey Gross (MDC) explains gardening to high school students

Below: MDC organized a Professional Etiquette Workshop which included 'Business Table Manners'



STU students conduct field research at their newly established campus garden

Rosario Vidales (FIU) gets lab experience at her internship with USDA ARS



FCCAgE students from FIU, STU, MDC, and IAU all gathered in Puerto Rico for the week-long Agroecology Workshop hosted by IAU.

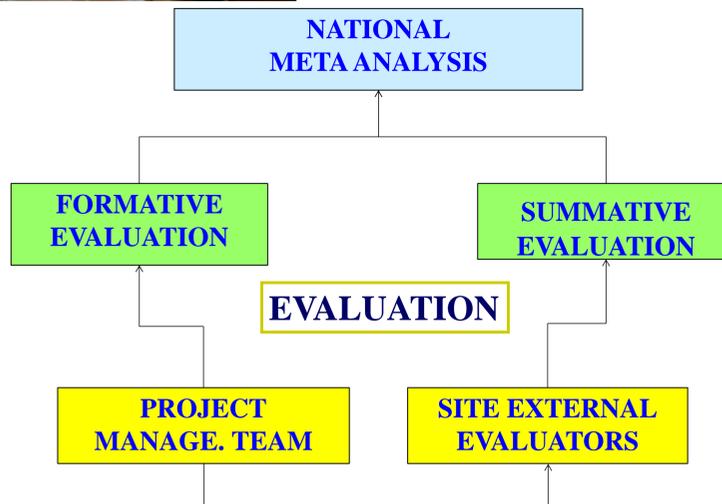
This summer, 17 FIU/MDC students received a two week Agroecology Training at the Center for Tropical Agriculture Research and Training (CATIE).



STU students engaged with the community at the Fairchild Ramble



FIU hosted 160 kindergarten children (98% Hispanic) for a day of Agroecology education



Presented at the USDA NIFA HSI Education Grants Program National Project Directors' Meeting, Washington, DC, January 2014

EXPECTED IMPACTS

- ❖ FCCAgE will graduate technically-qualified, under-represented students, who will land jobs in USDA and agricultural industry.
- ❖ A low-cost, multi-institutional agri-science educational alliance in South Florida and Puerto Rico, which will attract a large number of Hispanic and under-represented student populations
- ❖ Stronger bridge between K-12 schools, 2-year College and 4-year university to enhance future recruitment of students into college agricultural science programs
- ❖ An improvement in natural resource environment by promoting eco-friendly urban agriculture in South Florida cities and San German.