



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FOR USDA CAREERS

2011-2014 Grant Amount:
\$1,625,695 (total to date)

Project Summary

The primary objective of this project is to measurably increase the awareness, retention, and graduation rate of qualified underrepresented California State University (CSU) students, leading towards USDA career attainment. This annually renewable 4-year USDA/NIFA Regional Collaboration project was awarded to California State University's Water Resources and Policy Initiatives (WRPI) and is managed by the Water Resources Institute at California State University, San Bernardino.

The strategic goal of this project is to measurably increase student research skills that ensure our national forests and private working lands are conserved, restored, and made more resilient to climate change, while simultaneously enhancing the sustainability of the Nation's water resources.

This project provides funding for 50 paid Watershed Management Internships per year for a total of 200 internships over four years. The internships provide an experiential approach to learning in the field of watershed management, which helps students gain real-world experience in natural resource protection while developing new knowledge, skills, and abilities in problem-solving from a watershed perspective. The total salary paid to each Watershed Management Intern is \$4,500 with undergraduate-level students earning \$12.50 per hour for 360 total hours and graduate-level students earning \$15.00 per hour for 300 total hours. The project also provides up to \$560 per student for the purchase of approved supplies and materials and mileage reimbursement. Competitive interns may be eligible for \$40,000 scholarships in furtherance of their Doctorate-level degree in a natural resources or water related discipline.

Activities performed by interns during their Watershed Management Internships are related to aspects of natural resource protection as it is carried out by three particular USDA agencies: the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Forest Service (FS). The training provided is aimed at preparing 80% of these 200 participants for USDA natural resource careers, specifically within these three agencies.

Agency Partners

Government and Non-Profits:

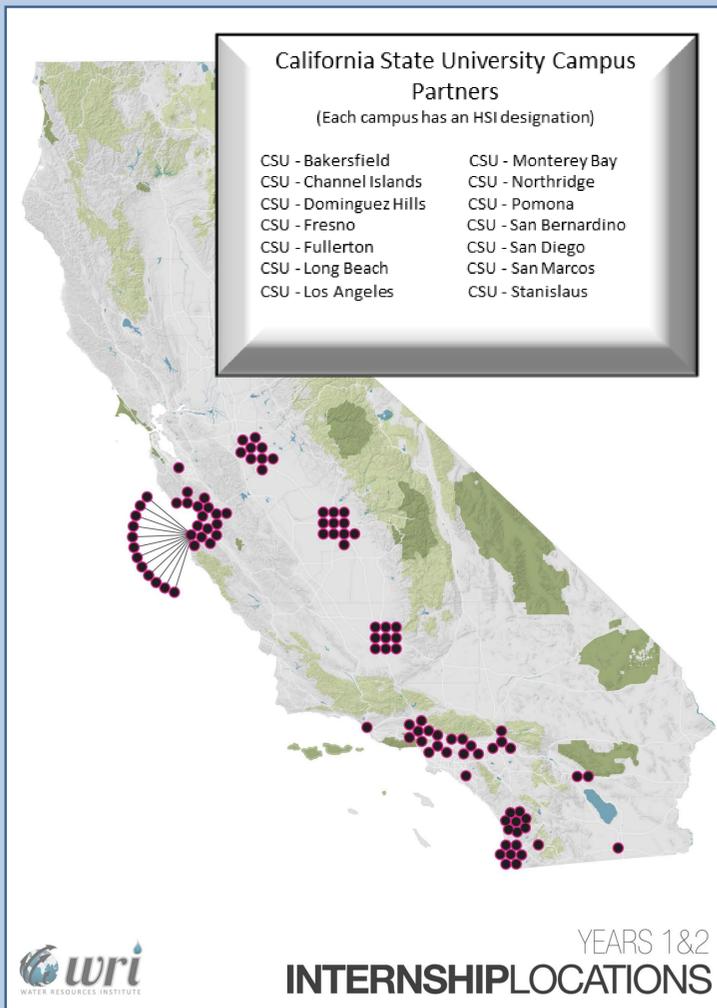
USDA—ARS, USDA—NRCS, USDA—FS, USDA—FSA, California Fish and Game, CalFire, Central Coast Water Quality Protection, Inc., Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, NASA, Poder Popular, RCD of Santa Cruz County, San Dieguito River Park, Santa Lucia Conservancy, Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve, Tuolumne River Trust, Ventura Coastkeeper

Municipal Departments:

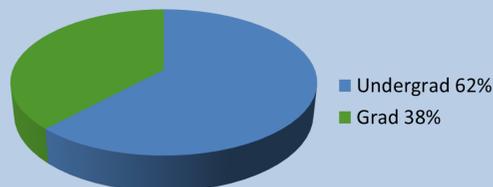
City of Monterey, City of Pacific Grove, City of Watsonville, County of Monterey, Marina Coast Water District, Monterey County Extension Office, Monterey County Health Department (Drinking Water Protection Services), Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Monterey Peninsula Water Management District

Industry:

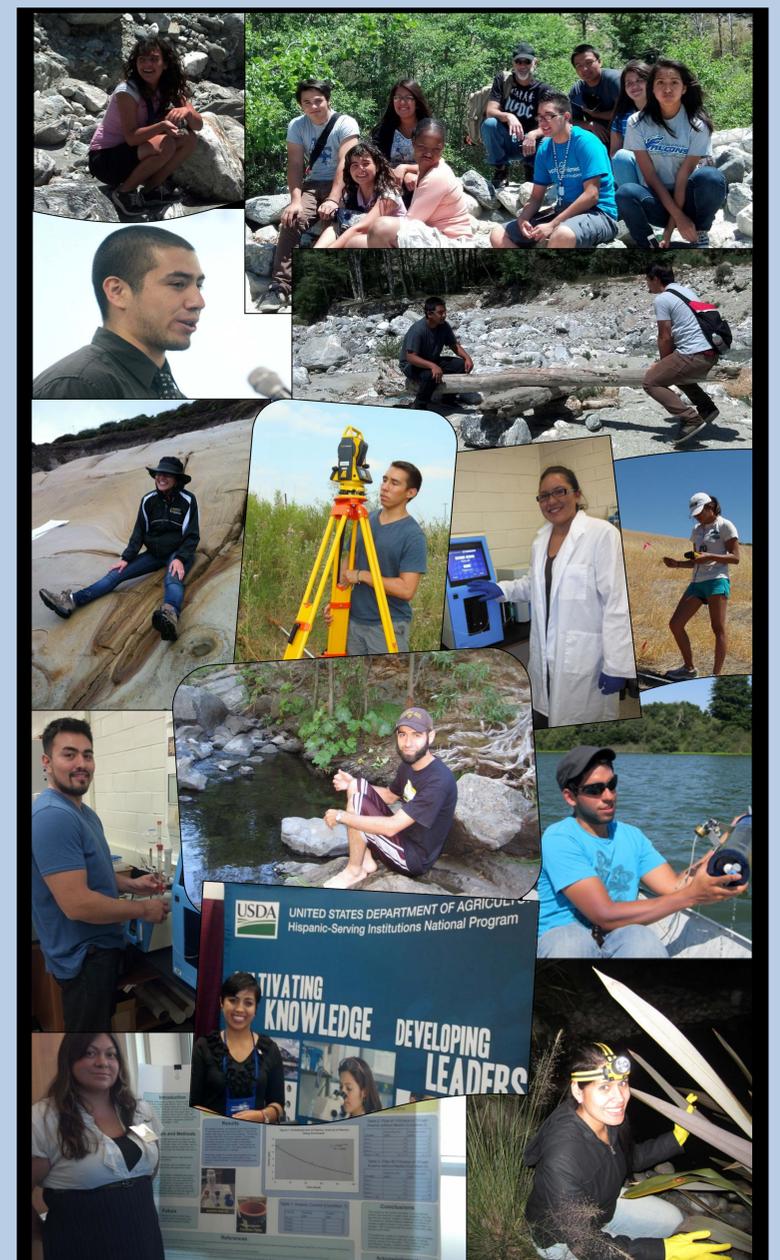
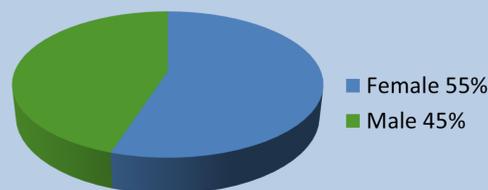
AgBio Tech, Applied Marine Sciences, Denise Duffy and Associates



Grad/Undergrad Interns



Male/Female Interns



Project Website: <http://wri.csusb.edu/watershedManagementExperientialLearning.html>

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