

Evaluating and Communicating the Economic Contribution of the San Luis Valley Research Center to the San Luis Valley

Mentor Information:

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In what Region will the student be working? The intern will be based in Center, Colorado and work will relate to the larger San Luis Valley Region.

Please describe the proposed internship goals, scope and objectives. The San Luis Valley Research Center was established in 1888 on 200 acres of state land, and since 1940 the principal research activity of the center has been focused on selecting potato varieties adaptable to the region. The intern will perform a detailed evaluation of San Luis Valley Research Center activities and the connection these activities have on the San Luis Valley Economy. Select potato research and extension programs (potato breeding, postharvest physiology, and seed certification) have initially been identified. This evaluation will involve research into the behavioral changes that occur due to these activities, such as the adoption of new potato varieties and associated changes in economic activity. The research center has a continuing commitment to the people of the San Luis Valley and the State of Colorado to provide research and information, conduct extension education and seed certification programs, it is the goal of this internship to lay the groundwork for communicating the economic contributions of these activities. This furthers the overall goal of identifying the impact of CSU on the state of Colorado. The intern will also work with extension to identify a communication strategy for disseminating the results as well as map out a plan to evaluate further the economic impacts and contributions of other AES stations and extension.

How was this applied research identified? This project was identified to provide an understanding how CSU research and extension activities impact the potato industry in Colorado, nationwide, and internationally.

With which stakeholder group(s) will the intern work? CSU Extension, Colorado AES, and the Colorado potato industry.

What student learning outcomes do you anticipate and are there opportunities for professional development? Primary and secondary data collection methods, Framing community economic assessments, analyzing the linkages in local economies, depending on intern possibility to learn about input-output analysis.

Do you have a specific mentor style that you would like to share with potential interns? It is important that they know they are a contributing member of a team that wants them to be successful in their

internship and in their preparation for a career. We stand ready to provide guidance, direction, and support throughout the process.

Are there travel funds available? Opportunities to provide student assistance with housing? Travel funds are available. Housing is available at the San Luis Valley Research Center.