Training of Agriculturalists for the Future
(Graduate and Undergraduate Students)
Sponsored by the
University of Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station

Rationale. Shortages of scientifically trained workers in agriculture are predicted to occur as soon as 2015. Colleges of Agriculture were also challenged by the National Academy of Sciences to “transform educational processes so that graduates understand the complexities of agriculture, can grapple with its evolution and changes, and are poised to become leaders and participants in the agricultural enterprise” (NAS, 2007). The close proximity of community colleges to three of the outlying UW Research and Extension (R&E) Centers provides a unique opportunity to provide undergraduate and graduate students with the training necessary for them to meet the challenges facing agriculture of the future.

Approach. The overall goal of this program is to combine resources of the UW R&E Centers and neighboring community colleges to improve opportunities for students to gain hands-on research experience in agriculture at the R&E Centers. To accomplish this goal, a competitive application process will be used to identify (1) a community college student, (2) a UW upperclassman, and (3) a UW graduate student who will work as a team to ensure appropriate conduct of a research project at an R&E Center. The graduate student’s advisor will provide overall mentoring for the project. In turn, the graduate student will provide mentorship and training for the undergraduate students. The UW Agriculture Experiment Station (AES) will provide summer stipend for the graduate student and support for the CC and UW undergraduate interns.

Expectations. The graduate student will summarize results of the project in the annual AES Field Days Bulletin and elsewhere as deemed scientifically appropriate. Interns will provide a short (1-2 page) synopsis of their activities to AES and to their respective departmental/college internship programs.

Methods.

Separate “requests for applications (RFA)” for summer Graduate Student stipends, UW undergraduate internships, and CC student internships will be solicited and evaluated as discussed below. Recipients will be selected based on their academic qualifications, goals, and “fit” with goals and missions of the R&E Centers at Powell (PREC), Sheridan (ShREC) or Lingle (SAREC). See www.uwyo.edu/uwexpstn for mission and resources at the R&E Centers. Applications are due December 19, 2014 to provide time for evaluation of credentials and building of teams prior to the spring planting season.

- Graduate student stipends. Graduate students should first develop a research project to be conducted at an R&E center in conjunction with, and with the support of, their graduate mentor. Students shall provide AES with a brief
project proposal (2-3 pages) that includes activities for the interns. The project proposal should also include a brief summary plus sections on materials and methods, facilities/space needs, and dissemination plans. Requests for space, specific project needs and payment method for R&E expenses (i.e. plot fees) need to be entered into the SARRA system on the AES website.

- **UW undergraduate student interns.** Applications for UW undergraduate internships are available from departmental internship coordinators or at www.uwyo.edu/uwexpstn. Completed applications plus a letter of support from the student’s advisor should be sent to aes@uwyo.edu by December 19, 2014.

- **CC student interns.** Applications for CC student internships are available through each respective CC internship coordinator or at www.uwyo.edu/uwexpstn. Completed applications plus a letter of support from the CC internship coordinator or advisor should be sent to jnewcomb@uwyo.edu by December 19, 2014.

**Selection of Teams.** Teams (graduate student, UW intern and CC intern) will be selected on criteria including; applicability of the project to R&E center goals, student interests and qualifications, and letters of support provided by advisors/coordinators. Please note that, although it is important, differences in GPA may be countered by interest, fit with projects, and other portions of the application materials. Screening of application materials will begin on December 22, 2014. In-person interviews will be arranged soon after the spring semester begins so that interns and fellows can be announced during the AES Awards and Appreciation Banquet on February 18, 2015.