



**Student  
Researcher  
Program**

**Nov 8, 2011  
Feb 23, 2012**

Dear Science Educator:

**The Student Researcher Program at the USDA ARS NCAUR is back again!** This new and unique opportunity is available to all high school juniors and seniors. **The goal of this program is to identify students with a keen interest in science and provide them with a full day of hands-on experience in a working research environment.**

You most likely know us as the “Ag Lab”. Located in Peoria, the USDA ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research (NCAUR) is a world-renown bioscience research facility providing enormous scientific intellectual capital and accomplishment. Nearly 100 PhD researchers and 130 scientific support staff, from more than ten major scientific disciplines, work in a facility of 270,000 sq. ft. with state-of-the-art scientific equipment and pilot plant industrial capacity. Discoveries and developments that have impacted the global quality of life have come from this lab since it opened in 1940, establishing a standard of scientific excellence now carried forward by its third generation of researchers.

The broad range of research programs at the USDA ARS NCAUR focus on raw agricultural materials such as corn and soybeans. Those materials may be transformed into a variety of valuable products such as biobased fuels, chemicals and plastics or new food ingredients providing human health benefits beyond basic nutrition. Researchers also work to develop new, never-before-cultivated crops such as cuphea and pennycress, to thwart the bacteria that create the odor in swine manure pits and to create new, environmentally friendly ways to protect crops from fungi, weeds and insects.

Through the Student Researcher Program, high school students will gain hands-on experience with some of the same research techniques used daily by career researchers at the lab. By the end of the day, students will have rotated through three different laboratories, interacted closely with research staff and gained a deeper understanding of how the multi-disciplinary teams at NCAUR solve research puzzles of national importance, one piece at a time.



**Space is limited! Please share this information with your students  
and encourage them to submit their applications promptly.**

**NOTE: Participation in the program is limited to once per student.**

**Dates for the upcoming school year:**

- Sep 30:** Deadline for the attached application packet to be completed and postmarked, or dropped off at NCAUR.
- Oct 14:** Selections will be made and students and schools notified. Space is limited.
- Oct 28:** Deadline for the \$20 registration fee and acceptance paperwork to be received. (Note: There will be a limited number of scholarships available.)
- Nov 8:** Student Researcher Program at the USDA ARS NCAUR
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- Jan 20:** Deadline for the attached application packet to be completed and postmarked, or dropped off at NCAUR.
- Feb 3:** Selections will be made and students and schools notified. Space is limited.
- Feb 15:** Deadline for the \$20 registration fee and acceptance paperwork to be received. (Note: There will be a limited number of scholarships available.)
- Feb 23:** Student Researcher Program at the USDA ARS NCAUR

Please feel free to contact either me with any questions. We're excited about this opportunity to contribute to a shared and important goal: encouraging the next generation of scientists.

Looking forward to hearing from you and your students,

*Kate*

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