

## PROJECT SUMMARY

**Instructions:**

The summary is limited to 250 words. The names and affiliated organizations of all Project Directors/Principal Investigators (PD/PI) should be listed in addition to the title of the project. The summary should be a self-contained, specific description of the activity to be undertaken and should focus on: overall project goal(s) and supporting objectives; plans to accomplish project goal(s); and relevance of the project to the goals of the program. The importance of a concise, informative Project Summary cannot be overemphasized.

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**Title:** Southwest Agriculture And Food Security Education: Preparing Future Leaders For A Safe And Secure U.S. Food Supply System

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**PD:** Saucier, Philip R

**Institution:** Texas State University

**CO-PD:** Morrish, Douglas G

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On September 11, 2001, terrorist attacked the U.S. Concluding these acts of terrorism, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has put agroterrorism and the safety of our nation's food supply as a high priority (House Research Organization, 2001). These terroristic alerts are still present today. Furthermore, many careers are available for students who are trained in this specific area, but the Hispanic/Latino population is often underrepresented in the food safety and inspection area.

This proposed project will fund 10 student's education from Austin Community College and Southwest Texas Junior College. Upon completion of a two year degree, students will transfer to Texas State University and complete a bachelor degree in a related science. Additionally, 11 graduate students education will be funded at Texas State University or New Mexico State University.

Additionally, all 21 students will become certified by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in the course entitled Preparedness and Response to Food and Agriculture Incidents: Management and Planning Level, and five online Federal Emergency Management Agency e-learning courses related to agriculture and food supply safety. Furthermore, all students will engage in: day-long USDA and DHS job shadowing activities, a summer USDA or DHS internship, attend a national and/or a regional research conference, and a professional development consortium. Students will gain six certifications offered by DHS and FEMA and an immense amount of experience with food security, food safety, and agroterrorism, thus helping narrow the gap of underrepresented students in food and agricultural sciences.