SITUATION

- Insufficient number of trained and diverse professionals entering careers in USDA and the U.S. agriculture industry, particularly in food security, safety, and inspection.
- Lack of awareness of food security and vulnerabilities in our food supply.
- Low percentage of Hispanic/Latino transfer and completers in undergraduate degree programs in agriculture.
- Lack of awareness of employment opportunities in USDA.
- Increased concern of food security and safety within the U.S. and across our southwest border.

INPUTS

- Faculty (Austin Community College, Southwest Texas Junior College, Texas State University, and New Mexico State University).
- Facilities
- Staff (one at Texas State University)
- Students (undergraduate and graduate)
- Federal funds
- Time
- Infrastructure

ACTIVITIES

- Develop joint admissions agreement between Austin Community College and Southwest Texas Junior College and Texas State University.
- Implement food security training Preparedness and Response to Food and Agriculture Incidents (DHS).
- Students will engage in five agricultural related online FEMA trainings.
- Provide job shadowing opportunities and internship pathways with APHIS, FSIS, and DHS.
- Provide 10 undergraduate/10 graduate scholarships to participating students.
- Fund 10 graduate students to attend the Career Preparation Institute
- Implement a Careers in USDA Symposium.
- Develop and implement the SouthWest Agriculture, Food Security, and Safety Research Meeting (SWARM).
- Implement a student/faculty research/mentor program.
- Implement a K-12 outreach recruitment program.

OUTPUTS

- Increased number of Hispanic/Latino students transferring from HSI community colleges and completing undergraduate degrees in a field of agriculture or related sciences at Texas State University and New Mexico State University.
- Increased number of Hispanic/Latino students completing graduate degrees in a field of agriculture or related sciences at Texas State University and New Mexico State University.
- Undergraduate and graduate students’ increased awareness in the food security and safety vulnerabilities in our national food supply.
- Increased knowledge of vulnerabilities of our food security and supply system in the U.S. and the potential threats facing U.S. and the world.

OUTCOMES

- Increased awareness of career opportunities in agriculture.
- Increased awareness of employment opportunities in USDA.
- Increased knowledge of Texas State University and the 4 year university climate.
- Increased knowledge of graduate studies opportunities at Texas State University and other U.S. graduate programs.
- Complete additional training to become certified in other areas related to food security and safety.

KNOWLEDGE

- Increased awareness of career opportunities in agriculture.
- Increased awareness of employment opportunities in USDA.
- Increased knowledge of Texas State University and the 4 year university climate.
- Increased knowledge of graduate studies opportunities at Texas State University and other U.S. graduate programs.
- Increased knowledge of vulnerabilities of our food security and supply system in the U.S. and the potential threats facing U.S. and the world.

CONDITIONS

- Actively apply the knowledge learned in job shadowing and internships.
- Teach others about food security practices and procedures.
- Enter the USDA workforce in the food security, safety, and inspection areas.
- Continue to graduate education in food security, safety, and inspection areas.
- Complete additional training to become certified in other areas related to food security and safety.

EXTERNAL FACTORS

- Increased number of Hispanic/Latino graduates completing a 4 year degree/graduate degree in agriculture or related science.
- Vibrant and competitive food security and safety inspection workforce with a good representation of Hispanic/Latino professionals.
- Safer U.S. food supply.
- Increased community awareness of threats to our food supply.

ASSUMPTIONS — Student participants will increase their competence in understanding food security and safety vulnerabilities in the U.S. food supply system, graduate with a 4 year degree in agriculture or related science, graduate with a graduate degree in agriculture or related science, and be able to enter the workforce in USDA or other government agency related to food security, safety, and inspection.