

TITLE, AWARD NUMBER, AND AMOUNT

ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, 2008-38422-19298, \$250,000

INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

1. Yakima Valley Community College (YVCC)
2. Wenatchee Valley Community College (WVC)
3. Washington State University (WSU)

CSREES/USDA RELEVANT PRIORITY OR MISSION AREA

1. Student Recruitment and Retention
2. Curricula Design, Materials Development, and Library Resources
3. Scientific Instrumentation for Teaching

USDA COLLABORATOR

1. USDA Yakima Agricultural Research Laboratory

OBJECTIVES

1. Contribute to the welfare of our rural communities through outreach, articulations, and program enhancement activities for the agricultural and food science degrees that increase enrollment of under-represented students.
2. Provide outreach and recruitment efforts at local middle and high schools and Adult Basic Education Programs (ABE).
3. Create promotional materials that identify agriculture and food science pathways and career options.
4. Develop a public relations program to provide more community awareness and opportunities with industries.

ACTIVITIES

1. Outreach to high schools and ABE students to promote agriculture-related careers and post-secondary education.
2. Outreach to agriculture industries through short term seminars and trainings.
3. Articulations with the agriculture program at WVC to facilitate co-enrollment in low-demand programs so that funds at each institution are maximized.
4. Articulations with WSU to make possible the transfer of students into baccalaureate programs.
5. Upgrading labs and materials for educational enhancement.

BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries of the grant are rural communities with high concentrations of Hispanic students in middle schools, high schools and Adult Basic Education Programs.

EVALUATION

1. Activity documentation data elements will include types and numbers of activities, number of participants, number of courses developed and approved, etc. Activity documentation will be maintained in a local database.
2. Survey/Questionnaire data elements will include surveys of high school students and staff members about perceptions of agriculture-related career opportunities, questionnaires for industry partners about needed services, and satisfaction surveys for the various grant activities.
3. Quantitative reports will be maintained on agricultural and food sciences enrollment, persistence, use of support services, certificate/degree completion rates, and transfer rates.

EXPECTED IMPACT

1. Increased number of graduates with an associate degrees in agricultural and food sciences
2. Increased quality of postsecondary instruction within these disciplines
3. Increased number of underrepresented students in agricultural and food sciences programs
4. Increased economic opportunities

