

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program

Information Session: Career Opportunities at USDA-FAS (hosted at SDSU in San Diego, CA) / Fall 2011



The invited speaker Jorge Sanchez (Agricultural Consul / U.S. Consulate General Guangzhou) Director of the USDA-FAS – Agricultural Trade Office (ATO) in Guangzhou, China shared his fascinating personal higher education and career success story with participating students, faculty, and staff at SDSU in San Diego, CA; relating the importance of learning new languages and exploring other cultures. Promoting USDA as an employer of choice and encouraging public

service, and emphasizing to start “framing yourself” as a service-oriented professional and a well-rounded scholar.

Also, conversing on diverse USDA-FAS career tracks via the Civil Service vs. the Foreign Service, such as an Economic Analyst, Marketing Specialist, and International Trade Specialist; working from the USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C. to an Agricultural Affairs Office (AAO) to an Agricultural Trade Office (ATO) located throughout the world. With an in-depth interactive discussion on how the USDA-FAS is linking U.S. agriculture to the world, highlighting personal experiences through the HACU-National Internship Program (HNIP), and the USDA-FAS / International Agricultural Internship Program (IAIP), as a previous student participant to now as a manager’s perspective. Participants learned how the USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) works to improve foreign market access for U.S. products, build new markets, improve the competitive position of U.S. agriculture in the global marketplace, and provide food aid and technical assistance to foreign countries.

The event also served as an introductory first-time visit from a USDA-FAS representative, by also meeting with the Director of Study Abroad Programs in partnership with the College of Business Administration, and the Director of Diversity / Office of the President – Chief Diversity Officer at SDSU in San Diego, CA to discuss potential collaborations.

