



# Agricultural Ambassadors Program

**Internship + Leadership Program for High School Students**

**Extended Deadline: May 14, 2010**



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program

## 2010 USDA Agricultural Ambassadors Program

Dear Student:

The USDA Agricultural Ambassadors Program provides high school students from Miami Dade County with the opportunity to intern with USDA in Miami, FL and attend a leadership development program in Washington, DC. Ambassadors are selected based on their academic excellence, interest in agriculture, and demonstrated leadership qualities.

After completing the program, Ambassadors represent USDA at their respective high schools and serve as a resource to students interested in agricultural-related fields. The program is funded by USDA and managed in partnership with Miami-Dade College, North Campus and Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

The program is designed to: expand students' knowledge of the importance of public service; provide educational and professional experiences; and increase students' awareness of career opportunities with the USDA. As mentioned, the student will participate in both an internship and leadership program.

The Internship Program:

- Ambassadors will be assigned an USDA professional mentor, who will train and guide students during the program.
- Ambassadors will work in a paid internship 20 hours per week for seven weeks. The schedule will be determined in coordination with the supervisor.
- Each ambassador will be responsible for making sure their mentor submits their weekly hours to the administrative point person for processing.
- Ambassadors are responsible for arranging their transportation to and from the internship location.
- Ambassadors are responsible for preparing a presentation about their internship experience to be presented in Washington, DC.

The Leadership Program:

- Ambassadors will travel to USDA Headquarters in Washington, DC for a one-week leadership program to learn government, history, and culture.
- Ambassadors will participate in a one-day leadership program at Miami-Dade College.
- Roundtrip airfare to Washington, DC, transportation and hotel accommodations will be provided.
- Ambassadors will make a five minute presentations about their experience as USDA Agricultural Ambassadors.

To be considered for this unique experience, you must:

- Be in good disciplinary standing.
- Be in good academic standing with minimum GPA of 3.0/4.0.
- Be a sophomore, junior or senior by September 2010.
- Be a student leader and committed to public service.
- Be interested in agricultural-related careers.

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- Attend the required orientation accompanied by a parent (s) or legal guardian(s).
- Complete the application and mail in the required documents.
- Be involved in the school program after returning from Washington, DC with the assignments given by the Regional Director.

Each high school principal will nominate a maximum of three students to be considered for this program. The application deadline is March 14, 2010. Incomplete and late applications will not be accepted.

**Internship Cost:** The USDA fully sponsors each selected student for this program. All costs including: airfare, food and accommodations will be covered. There are no fees or extra costs involved, if selected.

**Important dates:**

Application deadline:	May 14, 2010
Notification:	May 21, 2010
Orientation:	June 12, 2010
Internship Program:	June 14 – 26 and July 7 – August 6, 2010 in Miami, FL
Leadership Program:	June 28 – July 6, 2010 in Washington, DC

For additional program information, please visit [www.hsi.usda.gov](http://www.hsi.usda.gov). For any questions, please contact me at: 305-237-8550 or [Vladimir.Diaz@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Vladimir.Diaz@ars.usda.gov).

Sincerely,

Vladimir Diaz  
USDA Regional Director

## 2009 USDA Agricultural Ambassadors' Experiences

**Janin Alfonso**  
Westland Hialeah High School



Janin conducted a chemistry research on identifying avocado tree volatiles and their evolution from leaves to branches.

She worked to understand the individual changes in the chemical profile of avocado trees.

Identified and sampled avocado plantation and an introduced pest within the plant.

**Ricardo Muniz**  
Coral Reef High School



Ricardo conducted a project to determine the humidity level at which an invasive species, *Myllocerus* larvae, thrive in agriculture.

He investigated the invasive species that poses a threat to the trees in Florida and feeds on many host plants including various citrus and ornamental trees.

He controlled the humidity for *Myllocerus* larvae by rearing them in containers with different salt solutions.

**Miguel Angel Amezcua**  
Miami Southridge High School



Miguel researched a treatment to kill potentially invasive snails without affecting the quality of the plant material.

Within the investigation he tested different doses and temperatures plus the preparation 50 snail jars.

He also fumigated, analyzed the snail mortality, and compiled the final report.

**Charlotte Yanes**  
South Dade High School



Charlotte researched methods to protect fruit by determining the response of mature and immature female Caribbean fruit flies.

Caribbean fruit flies lay their eggs in fruits such as guava and grapefruit which makes the fruits unmarketable to the consumers.

Within her research, she carefully studied and sampled various amounts of flies.

**Mary's Martinez**  
William H. Turner High School



Mary's conducted a research on determining the potential natural enemies of croton scale existing or widespread in Florida.

The research entailed identifying biological control agents which would increase the management options against this new invasive pest.

She identified, surveyed, sampled, and tested the natural enemies of croton scale.

**Brandon Lam**  
Miami Southridge High School



Brandon conducted a research on three varieties of avocado: the Guatemalan brooks late cultivar, the West Indian waldin cultivar, and the Mexican mexicola cultivar.

He had to compare the chemical make-up of all three avocados and find reoccurring chemicals.

The research entailed finding the ambrosia beetle, which is a creature that normally holds a close relationship with avocado treed and carries a fungus that is deadly to avocado.

**Nall Inshan Mooninlall**  
Coral Reef High School



Nall conducted a research of sucrose fermentation and sugar bait field traps.

He had to determine the rate of fermentation of different types of sugar and which sugar captures the most African fig and Caribbean fruit flies.

Within his research he had to identify and test both insects and sugar solutions frequently.

