PROGRESS REPORT: “Rising Star”

Objectives of the “Rising Star Program”
- Implementation of the “Rising Star” internship program will bring the resources of Iowa State University to 10 counties in the state of Iowa.
- Students from diverse backgrounds, skills and expertise will be given the opportunity to analyze and evaluate local community’s food systems and identify changes which will expand availability, demand and usage of local foods.
- Professional skill development opportunities will be provided and students will benefit from real world work experience. The field experience will enhance future classroom learning and success.
- ISU graduates face an ever increasingly competitive job market upon graduation. Hands-on experience, applying knowledge gained in the classroom and working as a team from multi-disciplines will provide students a unique advantage which will enhance employment opportunities upon graduation.
- Evaluation of achievements is critical. Students will implement a plan to achieve expansion of local foods and to develop and a formal method to evaluate the success of their efforts.
- Extension and Colleges will identify students who have the potential to become future valuable employees or graduate students.
- Increase in the demand and utilization of local foods will expand employment, utilization of local foods and sale of products.
- Present small farms will benefit from expanded demand of local foods resulting in increased profitability.
- Citizens, small businesses and institutions will become aware of food sources beyond the traditional.
- Nutrition and wellness will be impacted because of a greater supply an availability of fruits and vegetables.

Funding Awarded: $131,400.00

Funding Expended to Date $48.14

Progress to Date:
- The budget for the intern program has been developed.
- Negotiations agreements have been completed with ISU Extension and Outreach, College of Human Sciences, College of Design and local Extension Councils in Region 1 and Region 20.
- Local Advisory Groups have been established in Region 1 and Region 20.
- A fact sheet on “Rising Stars” has been developed and shared with the Colleges, students, advisory councils, Extension Councils and potential partners.
- Marketing materials have been developed (logo, banners and fliers).
- Local food needs assessments have been initiated. Currently assessments in all Extension Regions are in process which may result in additional local foods needs to be determined.
- The Rising Star pilot project has been announced to potential local partners through the media and public meetings.
The program has been shared with students through the Human Science Career Fair, Advisors on Campus, and local contacts with parents of students who attend Iowa State University in the colleges of Design and Human Sciences.

Applications have been posted online in Region 1 and Region 20, as well as CyHire. Applications are presently being accepted and will be until November 15. December 10th has been selected as a tentative date to conduct interviews on campus. Each Region will have an interview committee of three members.

Next Steps

- Complete a high quality, glossy brochure outlining the program.
- Encourage students to apply for the internship (send e-mails to students who shared resumes during career fair).
- Develop interview materials and complete the identification of the interview committee.
- Determine location and schedule interviews for December 10.
- Contact successful candidates and sign letters of intent on or before December 20, 2013.
- Work with Human Resources and Finance Office to complete employment and payroll documents.
- Determine housing accommodations needed by the summer interns and begin steps to meet these needs.
- Develop demographics, benchmarks, evaluation instrument, and supporting orientation materials for students.
- Schedule dates with interns for orientation, both on campus and in the regions. This will be an opportunity to listen to Program Leaders, Program Specialists, Advisors and College Leadership and advisory council members.
- Determine date when students will arrive in communities (May 11, 2013).
- Prior to arrival secure needed equipment, subscribe to electronic newsletter or work with IT to establish blog or website on the ISU Extension and Outreach website.
- Make arrangements in the region for interns to meet with key community contacts so they get to know more about the counties they serve.
- Complete final report and schedule local public meetings to share results of the internship and steps needed for 2015.
- Report to stakeholders on campus.
- Review the 2014 program and implement changes for upcoming year.
- Begin the process for 2015.