

# U.S. PORK CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

## 2021 Swine Research and Education Experience REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**Proposal Submission DEADLINE: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 – 5:00 p.m. CST**

### Staff Member:

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### Introduction

The Swine Research and Education Experience (SREE) seeks to expand undergraduate and veterinary student participation in research and education projects relevant to the swine industry. The objectives of the program are: 1) expose students to swine research and education, 2) recruit and attract student to seek careers within the swine industry, and 3) provide a support mechanism for development of future swine research and education leaders. Students from all applicable discipline areas are eligible for consideration. Through the development and completion of a mentored research or education project, students will gain pork science and industry exposure, obtain personal experiences in swine research and education, and develop problem-solving skills. University faculty or staff will collaborate and mentor the student in the identification, development, and completion of the project.

The inspiration for the SREE program is to attract students to swine related research or educational careers who might not otherwise consider those aspirations. The projects are encouraged to involve students at early stages in their college experience. SREE projects may be carried out during the academic year.

The SREE program will introduce students to research and education projects (planning experiments, project implementation, summarization of results, and presentation of findings). The mentor-student relationship is a fundamental focus in meeting the SREE program objectives. Effective relationship building, early in a student's education program, will support a student's career choice, prepare students to be competitive for scholarships and fellowships, and enhance future academic development and desire to pursue graduate studies as they gain greater insight to the U.S. Pork Industry.

### Proposal Development

Projects must be submitted through the normal grant proposal system of the institution/college involved. Awards may be administered as needed by the mentor, but should cover project expenses including student labor; student travel to professional events; and necessary supplies to communicate results of work accomplished; however, the funding allocation must be directly associated with the educational and research opportunity for the student. Proposal reviews will be completed, and notifications made by August 15, 2021. Project initiation can be expected to begin as early as September 1, 2021 and projects are to be completed including submission of final report by May 31, 2022.

## Selection

Members of the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence & National Pork Board's Swine Production Educators & Extension committee will evaluate project proposals. Proposals will be evaluated and selected based on the following:

- Appropriateness and value of the educational experience for the student participants, particularly the appropriateness of the research project(s) for undergraduate or veterinary student involvement and the nature of the students' participation in these activities.
- The preparedness of the research mentor(s) to guide an undergraduate project, and the professional development opportunities for the students.
- Quality of plans for student preparation and for follow-through designed to promote continuation of student interest and involvement in the swine industry.
- Appropriateness and cost-effectiveness of the budget, effectiveness of the plans for managing the project and evaluating the outcomes. Demonstration of in-kind support or additional funding needed if budget exceeds \$5,000.

Each proposal will be scored on a scale of 1 to 80 reflecting how well each of the following components of a proposal is defined.

- Learning objectives
  - Does the research address a pork industry need (10)
  - Process, procedures and scope of work involved in science and engineering research (10)
  - Potential project results presentation or write-up (output of student's contributions) (10)
- Project Description: experimental design (10)
- Faculty experience in supervision and feedback (10)
- Exposure to job opportunities and careers in swine science (20)
  - Networking opportunities with swine industry professionals, OR
  - Exposure to careers in swine science (not limited to in-person events, e.g. podcasts, webinars, etc.)
- Budget (realistic for project description), including in-kind support (10)

## Eligibility

Request for proposals will be solicited from faculty and staff who are active participants in swine production research, education and outreach. Funds will support projects with a cap limit of \$5,000 per undergraduate or veterinary student and \$15,000 per institution. Funds will be used for direct support of the student and associated learning activities. Funds cannot be used for equipment purchases. Students must be enrolled as an undergraduate or veterinary student throughout and at the completion of the project. Graduate students or individuals accepted to a graduate study program are NOT eligible. Matching funds will be encouraged from participating universities and industry affiliates. Recovery of indirect cost is prohibited.

**Implemented in 2020:** SREE funds will be awarded to universities that are funding partners of the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence. For a complete list of partners, please visit: <https://www.usporkcenter.org/partners/>. If your institution is interested in becoming a funding partner of the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence, please contact Chelsey Van Genderen, [cvangenderen@usporkcenter.org](mailto:cvangenderen@usporkcenter.org).

Funds will be awarded in full upon project approval and completion of contract. A final report of internship activities and work accomplished will be required for each proposal funded. A template for the final report will be provided. If the final report is not provided within the specified reporting timeframe, U.S. Pork Center of Excellence will request the recipient institution to refund to U.S. Pork Center of Excellence the full amount of the award provided.

**Due Dates**

Proposal announcement – April 1, 2021

Proposal submission deadline – June 30, 2021

Notification and/or approval – August 15, 2021

Project start date – September 1, 2021

Final report submission deadline – May 31, 2022