All-America Selections Trial Gardens

Assist with implementing the All-America Selections (AAS) vegetable and ornamental gardens. Record the data from evaluations and understand best practices in planting and maintaining trial gardens. Through this internship the intern will develop leadership skills through real-world experiences building a foundation in leadership that extends into their career.

Qualifications
1. Minimum qualifications: Rising juniors and seniors from LSU and partner institutions studying agriculture: (i.e. Plant and Soil Systems, Agricultural Business, Agriculture and Extension Education) with at least a 3.0 GPA are most competitive. Second-year students and those with a minimum 2.5 GPA are also eligible and encouraged to apply.

2. Preferred qualifications: Prior personal or work-related experience involving agricultural production systems. Good interpersonal, communication, organizational, teamwork and time management skills are essential.

3. Physical qualifications: The intern should be willing to work 10 hours a week in the heat and humidity and tolerate mosquitoes and other biting insects in the summer. The intern must be able to lift 40 lbs.

Primary Contact/Mentor: Jeff Kuehny, Director; Keith Lewis, Farm Manager; Aubrey Cooper, Landscape Manager, LSU AgCenter Botanic Gardens, 4560 Essen Lane, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.

Maximum Interns Needed: 1

Weeks 1-2:

Primary Tasks:

- Participate in Leaning by Leading™ internship program orientation at the Botanic Gardens
- Meet with the Mentors, Co-Coordinators, Interns and Director
- Submit a resume
- Tour Burden Museum & Gardens and meet the staff. Learn about the history of the Burden Family and the property, specialty gardens, Burden Woods, Barton Arboretum, Rural Life Museum and Windrush Gardens.
- Meet with Mentor and Co-Coordinators once per week, identify and review internship leadership goals and overall goals for the internship
- Review and understand the All-America Selections (AAS) Trail Program
• Learn how to operate equipment and tools used by Farm Manager
• Learn how to properly layout, prepare and plant AAS Trial Garden
• Learn all safety protocol associated when working as an Arborist
• Brainstorm sessions for signature project
• Develop and plan signature project
• Meet with Director to review the signature project

Weeks 3 - 9:
Primary Tasks:
  • Meet with Mentor and Co-Coordinators once per week, review and update leadership goals and overall goals, progress report on special project
  • Begin to implement signature project
  • Work with Mentors to implement, maintain and evaluate the AAS Trial Garden
  • Develop presentation on signature project

Week 10:
Primary Tasks:
  • Review and evaluate leadership goals and overall goals
  • Attend Exit Internship Seminars with presentations on signature project
  • Present signature project
  • Participate in a reflective discussion on internship experience
  • Modify resume based on internship experience
  • Complete an exit interview with the Director and Mentor

Success Measures
  • Interns will meet every week with Mentors and Co-Coordinators for a brief evaluation of the internship experience. During the evaluation, interns will discuss what they have accomplished, identify where they need assistance, share future plans, and reflect upon the overall experience.
  • Develop and complete internship leadership goals and over all goals
• Develop, implement and complete a signature project
• Each Mentor and Co-Coordinator will evaluate the intern’s performance based on pre-determined criteria.