Introduction

AgBioResearch (ABR) is announcing a fellowship program intended to introduce faculty to the type of work that ABR supports and provide insights into administrative careers. ABR at Michigan State University (MSU) is part of a national network of agricultural experiment stations supporting basic and applied research on food, health, and the environment. Intended research outcomes of ABR scientists help promote healthy and resilient agriculture and food systems, natural resources, and communities here in Michigan, across the nation, and globally, and the success of ABR depends directly on diverse partnerships. ABR engages regularly with a network of MSU researchers, MSU Extension, six MSU colleges, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation at MSU, federal and state agencies, commodity groups, stakeholders, and federal and state elected officials. ABR receives significant support from the State of Michigan, and the diverse scope of research it supports and its rich engagement with partners makes it a unique and critical unit supporting and growing the research enterprise across MSU.

The AgBioResearch Administrative Fellowship Program is intended to expose fellows to the diverse types of research that ABR supports, engage fellows with its partnership network, and provide insights into the MSU research enterprise. Areas that fellows would be exposed to include the administrative side of grant submissions, space management within MSU, research analytics, support of on- and off-campus research centers, strategic faculty hires, specialized funding programs including M-AAA and Project GREEEN, administration of the PERM program with MDNR and GLFC, ABR’s efforts to support DEI, and promotion of various other strategic initiatives related to research across MSU. Fellows will gain a deeper understanding of MSU’s research portfolio and expand their professional networks both within and outside of the university. This leadership training experience is suitable for faculty wishing to learn more about research administration at MSU and expand their professional networks. Additionally, this experience should aid fellows in evaluating whether or not an administrative career track is of interest. Across higher education, the need for individuals who can think strategically and promote partnerships continues to grow, yet limited opportunities are available for providing insights into administrative careers. This fellowship is intended to aid in that regard, giving fellows a better understanding of research administration. Besides these benefits, fellows will also be encouraged to participate in additional leadership training experiences.
Expectations

The fellowship will last for at least for one year with the possibility of extension, depending on available opportunities. During the fellowship, fellows will be expected to take on a project that will help them gain new perspectives into the research enterprise and that will aid ABR in addressing emerging challenges. This project is intended to be a short-term effort that will yield additional insights into research administration. The project will be tailored to the individual fellow’s interests and may have potential benefits to their home department. Projects will be developed in conjunction with a mentor and will require a modest time investment throughout the fellowship year. Mentors will be identified from the ABR leadership team, and fellows will be expected to meet regularly with those individuals and also attend meetings with the ABR leadership team on a regular basis. These meetings will focus on the day-to-day operations of ABR as well as strategic directions that the unit works towards, and the addition of fellows to these meetings will help to ensure that faculty perspectives are fully represented in decision-making. Additionally, fellows will be encouraged to apply to the Lead 21 leadership training program in Fall 2022 or a similar program to further enhance their leadership training and expand their network.

Eligibility

Tenure-stream faculty who have an affiliation with ABR or CANR and holding a position of Associate Professor or higher at Michigan State University are eligible to apply to this program.

Application Process

Submit the following items as a single PDF file to Dana Infante (infanted@msu.edu) by 3/31/2022.

1. A letter (three pages maximum) describing your career trajectory at MSU, your career aspirations, and why you are interested in participating in this program. The letter should include a description of prior leadership experiences and address your philosophy and experience fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in research endeavors.

2. A recent comprehensive CV.

Following review of applications, select applicants will be contacted for interviews with the selection committee. Before final decisions are made, members of the selection committee will meet with applicants and their departmental chairs to ensure that expectations of this award are clearly communicated. Because of this, applicants are encouraged to notify chairs of their intent to apply for the fellowship before submitting applications. Please contact Dana Infante (infanted@msu.edu) for any questions or additional information. Up to two fellows may be identified for this experience.

Timeline

- March 1, 2022 : Fellowship announced
- March 31, 2022 : Applications due by 5:00 PM
- April 22, 2022 : Invitations for interviews will be extended
- May 6, 2022 : Fellows announced
- August 16, 2022 : Fellowship begins