

Job Announcement: FSDL Graduate Research Assistant Fall 2022-Spring 2023



West Virginia University®

CENTER FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

FSDL

Food System
Development Lab

Description

The **Food System Development Lab**, which is part of the WVU Center for Resilient Communities, (FSDL), actively pursues and advocates for the creation of a **food system** that **builds equity between consumers and producers** across Central Appalachia. The lab partners with and participates in projects that share a vision of **food sovereignty** through collective solutions without the marginalization of people, the environment, and communities.

Growing out of several existing projects the Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) will support the FSDL to **provide land grant institution resources to stakeholders** across the region, building tools, data, research, and the **next generation** of food system **practitioners** and advocates. Working directly with the Associate Director of the CRC (**Fritz Boettner**) the GRA will **engage** with **students and partners** to move forward a myriad of research, projects, and actions, while maintaining a direct connection to undergraduate students to perform a variety of tasks. Additionally, the GRA will sit on the CRC project development committee and have an **active voice** in the decision making of new projects, lines of **inquiry**, and project **partnerships**.

CRC staff understands that it is critical to involve students at every level of the CRC and maintains high regard for **student input and creativity** towards creating a more **impactful** Center at WVU.

KEY TASKS

- Collaboration with CRC staff, directors, partners, undergraduate and graduate students to **research, analyze, write, and visualize** relevant information for regional food system development in WV and Central Appalachia.
- Support and **maintain relationships** with internal and external Lab Partners on a variety of projects supported by the FSDL and other CRC labs.
- Lead two project **Evaluation Assessments and reports** for CRC partners
- Perform **action research** that will lead to learning, publications, and/or develop original scholarly work that relates to the following research topics; and/or is related to the **advancement of a Regional Food System** in Central Appalachia
 - **Climate change** mitigation through **Agroecology**
 - **Food Security** (regionally and nationally) and access
 - **Cooperative production** development and support for farmers
 - Development of a coordinated **logistics** and distribution network
 - Alternative market development and economic analysis; value chain analysis
 - **Policy development** and analysis
 - **Production planning** coordination and tool development
- **Lead** and manage undergraduate students through the Sustainable Development Internship, Spring 2023
- **Align** external and internal projects with interns
- Work directly with CRC Associate Director to develop projects and support a variety of **grant proposal(s)** to meet education and research goals.
- Attend **weekly meetings**, serve on the CRC office management rotation with other students
- Participate in staff meetings to help **guide CRC initiatives** and lines in inquiry.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- **Graduate student** at West Virginia University with an interest in Food Systems
- Minimum **one year of professional experience**
- Demonstrated **research and writing experience**, sample writing or project report preferred
- Ability to **multitask** and provide management to undergraduate students
- **GIS, excel, and database** development experience preferred
- **Survey** development and implementation
- **Qualitative and Quantitative** synthesis

COMPENSATION

Term – 2022/2023 Academic Year with the possibility of an extension and/or summer work. **\$18,750 per academic year**. Tuition **remission** for Geography Majors. **20 hours per week**

APPLICATION

Please submit a cover letter and C.V. to jboettne@mix.wvu.edu by Monday September 5th, 2022.