16 November 2011

The KBS GK-12 Bioenergy Sustainability Project is accepting applications for graduate student fellowships for 2012-13. This graduate training project is funded by grant from the NSF Division of Graduate Education.

Information about the KBS GK-12 project is available at our website: http://kbsgk12project.kbs.msu.edu/. An overview of the national GK-12 program is available at: http://www.gk12.org/. The Summary of our proposal to NSF is available at: https://www.msu.edu/user/getty/GK-12_Project_Summary.pdf. The KBS GK-12 project and fellows will work with K-12 districts in the KBS K-12 Partnership, which you can learn more about at: http://www.kbs.msu.edu/education/k-12-partnership. A brochure with pictures of our progress establishing the BEST schoolyard research plots is available at: https://www.msu.edu/user/getty/GK-12-brochure3.pdf.

From our GK-12 proposal Summary:

In our proposed new project, graduate students in MSU’s Ecology, Evolutionary Biology & Behavior (EEBB) and Environmental Science & Public Policy (ESPP) programs who are engaged in STEM research at the W.K. Kellogg Biological Station (KBS) will partner with the DOE Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center (GLBRC) Sustainability Research Group, our NSF Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) project on the ecology of agricultural landscapes, the KBS K-12 Partnership for Science Literacy and MSU’s Center for Research on College Science Teaching and Learning (CRCSTL), to create a new GK-12 project with an intellectual focus on the ecological dimensions of bioenergy sustainability. Proposed activities include working with K-12 teachers to improve their curricula and their students’ learning, in part by establishing schoolyard science research plots in K-12 Partner districts, and at KBS, that mimic aspects of GLBRC research plots and serve as the foundation for a collaborative schoolyard science network that will enable our fellows to integrate their scientific research practice and findings into K-12 STEM education.

The NSF GK-12 program is meant to advance the professional development of STEM graduate students while they continue to make good progress on their dissertation research. NSF stipulates that fellows will spend a maximum of 15 hours per week directly involved in GK-12 project activities, with approximately 10 of these hours devoted to activities in K-12 partner districts or at KBS. KBS activities will include a one-day orientation in May, an intensive summer science institute in late in June, four one-day school year workshops and Friday fellows meetings associated with a course focused on the professional development of fellows.

Stipend support is $30,000/year, plus benefits, including tuition. The eight NSF fellowships are limited to citizens, nationals or permanent residents of the United States. The MSU Graduate School will provide one additional fellowship that does not have this restriction. Appointments will run from May 1 through April 30, with the possibility of renewal for a second year. Applicants who have established research and residency at KBS will have priority.*

To apply, please submit (1) a statement of interest, (2) your current CV, and (3) a letter of support from your faculty advisor. Your statement of interest and your advisor’s letter of support should demonstrate a familiarity with the general goals and expectations of the NSF GK-12 program and the KBS GK-12 project. Questions and application materials should e-mailed to Tom Getty and Robin Tinghitella via kbsgk12project@kbs.msu.edu. Review of applications will begin December 15, 2011.

* We anticipate that a few fellowships will be available to EEBB/ESPP students whose research is not established at KBS. Campus-based fellows will need to be prepared to spend 15 hours per week working at KBS or in nearby K-12 districts.