

Apprenticeship Title:	Research & Extension Soil and Water Conservation in Agricultural Systems
Duration:	12 weeks (approximately May – August, 2018)
Compensation:	\$500/week plus benefits and travel allowance for job-related travel
Minimum age:	18
Minimum requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be currently enrolled in a four-year accredited college or university in environmental science, ecology, hydrological sciences, soil science, or other relevant course of study. • Must have completed sophomore year prior to the start of the apprenticeship. Must <u>NOT</u> be eligible to graduate prior December 2018. • Must possess a minimum GPA of 3.0 based on a 4.0 scale at the time of application (exceptions will be considered with substantial justification). • Must be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident. • Must have a valid driver’s license and reliable personal vehicle. • Must be willing to travel (regionally and possibly internationally) and work flexible hours. In other words, this position requires travel connected with official duties, including attendance at night and weekend meetings, conferences, etc. (Travel reimbursement will be provided.)
Preferred qualifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preference will be given to students with a foundational understanding and the completion of classes related to soil science, water resources, environmental science, agriculture landscapes, or related topics. Experience working in a lab setting or collecting field data, water quality testing, and strong interpersonal skills is also preferred. Have experience working with volunteers and youth. • Able to work effectively and build relationships with others. • Have good organization and planning skills and be able to demonstrate effective project coordination, facilitation, and implementation based on past work or school experiences. • Possess deductive reasoning skills and be able to analyze and synthesize information. • Have a personal commitment to working with diverse clientele and colleagues.
Physical requirements:	The position may involve travel across the state of MS, sometimes working at field locations during harsh weather conditions, and the candidate should have the ability to work outside of normal work hours due to traveling.

<p>General Apprenticeship Description:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain exposure to the workings of an Extension program and information related to program focus toward protecting natural resources for human needs, such as agricultural production. The individual will identify a natural resource need and develop related curriculum. • Assist the faculty specialist with the delivery of Extension materials to stakeholders, assist with the coordination of a stakeholder workshop, and potentially attend and assist with workshop delivery. • Meet and interact with personnel from US Department of Agriculture-NRCS and MSU Extension Service, and faculty and graduate students of the Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Department. • Assist with ongoing research projects related to soil and water conservation, including water quality monitoring and analysis techniques. • The above experiences will facilitate the individual's knowledge to successfully translate information into the Extension product(s)/process(es)/tool(s) he/she will develop/help to develop; this end product will be disseminated/delivered to appropriate stakeholders of MS • Maintain an ongoing, professional relationship with your assigned faculty mentor. • Maintain a reflection journal outlining apprenticeship experiences. Completes and submits journal at the conclusion of the apprenticeship. • Will be expected to develop and present a poster or presentation at an industry-related conference or professional meeting identified by the Extension faculty specialist.
<p>Other Information:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing is not provided. However, program administrators may be able to assist you in finding an affordable place to live. • This position is funded by the FY16 USDA NIFA AFRI ELI Research and Extension Experiential Learning for Undergraduates (REEU) Fellowships Program of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA, Grant #2017-67033-26015.
<p>Apprenticeship Faculty Mentor:</p>	<p>Beth Baker Assistant Extension Professor 775 Stone Blvd, TH253 662-325-7491 beth.baker@msstate.edu</p>
<p>Apprenticeship Program Director:</p>	<p>Dr. Marina Denny mdd269@msstate.edu 662-325-1175 (office)</p>
<p>Application Process:</p>	<p>Online application and supplemental documentation due by 11:59 PM on February 28, 2018.</p> <p>Supplemental documentation for this apprenticeship opportunity must be e-mailed directly to the Apprenticeship Program Director:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unofficial Transcripts • Two Letters of Recommendation