

Opportunity for College Students from Appalachian Regions

SUCCESS Program for the Geosciences and Water Engineering

College students who grow up in the Appalachian region of Kentucky, West Virginia and surrounding states learn hands-on knowledge of water, rocks, forests and mountains. Students see how forestry practices, mining operations and conservation can impact the visual, functional and economic wealth of their rivers and lakes. Despite these experiences, the number of college students from Appalachia who continue-on in college to receive their masters or doctorate degree from geoscience or water engineering programs is lagging behind the rest of the United States.

We introduce the Appalachian SUCCESS Program funded by the National Science Foundation. The goal of the program is to support college students from Appalachia to help them receive masters and doctorate degrees in geoscience and water engineering. The program provides financial support to assist students with funding their college experience. The program provides technical support by teaching undergraduate students and graduate students state-of-the-art skills using high resolution sensors for investigating water processes. Centered at the University of Kentucky and Marshall University in West Virginia, the program will build a cohort of students from different schools across the region.

College students interested in participating in the SUCCESS program should send application materials to one of the SUCCESS leaders at the University of Kentucky or Marshall University. The SUCCESS leaders are Prof. Jimmy Fox (james.fox@uky.edu) in Civil Engineering at the University of Kentucky, Prof. Bill Ford (bill.ford@uky.edu) in Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at the University of Kentucky and Prof. Mindy Armstead (m.armstead@marshall.edu) in Natural Resources and the Environment at Marshall University. Applications should include: (1) an up-to-date resume; (2) college transcripts; (3) a one-page statement of interest that describes the student's ambitions and interest in geoscience or water engineering; and (4) verbal description of the students' eligibility. Eligibility Requirements include: (i) students should have attended high school in the Appalachia region; (ii) students should be interested in pursuing graduate school in geoscience or water engineering; and (iii) students should be enrolled in a college or university at any level or have received an undergraduate degree in the past and are interested to enroll in graduate school. Send applications materials to one of the project leaders by January 15, 2023 to be eligible for participating starting in Summer 2023.

Interested students can learn more about SUCCESS at informational meetings led by the project leaders. Prof. Jimmy Fox will hold an in-person meeting at 4 PM on Thursday, November 17 in the Raymond Building room 112 on the University of Kentucky's campus in Lexington. Prof. Mindy Armstead will hold a dual in-person and virtual meeting at 1 PM on December 1 in WAEC room 1227 on the Marshall University campus. Please contact Mindy (m.armstead@marshall.edu) for the link to attend virtually. Prof. Bill Ford will hold a virtual meeting at 11 am on December 5th, please contact Bill (bill.ford@uky.edu) for the link to the meeting.

