CSU Extension Internship Application
San Luis Valley (Monte Vista, Gunnison, and Fort Collins): Potatoes and Health

Student Mentors:

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In what region will the student be working (county/region/state)?
Monte Vista, Gunnison, and Fort Collins

Please describe the proposed internship goals, scope, and objectives.
Substantial research has been generated by CSU faculty and staff regarding health properties of potatoes, as well as commercially available cultivars. Despite this wealth of research, there has been little effort to synthesize this information, or to make it available to the growing number of nonprofits, health department staff, or others interested in integrating healthy eating with ‘local foods’ and economic development outcomes. This student will be responsible for working with the CSU Potato Breeding & Selection Program at the San Luis Valley Research Center, as well as the Crops for Health Program, to synthesize relevant materials.

What student learning outcomes do you anticipate and are there opportunities for professional development (e.g., attending conferences or stakeholder convenings)?

- How to conduct a systematic literature review, including integrating inter-disciplinary research.
- How to disseminate research effectively to diverse stakeholders.
- How to work with a broad range of stakeholders and collaborators.

As a project outcome/deliverable, the selected student will be responsible for developing materials for stakeholder audiences that help to bridge the knowledge gap between potato varieties and health outcomes.

How does this internship support identified stakeholder needs in the county/region?
Integrating opportunities to support improved health outcomes with economic development, particularly that promotes Colorado farms and ranches, was identified as part of the state’s Colorado Blueprint of Food and Agriculture. The ‘Blueprint’ included two listening sessions with stakeholders in the San Luis Valley, including one that was part of the region’s Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference. Further, the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee has expressed support for exactly this type of effort.

**Are travel funds available? Opportunities to provide student assistance with housing?**

Travel funds are available, and housing might be available through the San Luis Valley Research Center.