In what region will the student be working (county/region/state)?
Western Slope and Western Colorado Research Center (Orchard Mesa).

Please describe the proposed internship goals, scope, and objectives.
The Community Alliance for Education and Hunger Relief is a program based at the CSU Western Colorado Research Center in Mesa County, Colorado. It is a collaboration between the Agriculture Experiment Station (AES), CSU Tri-River Extension office and many other local agencies and organizations (http://communityalliance.extension.colostate.edu/). This program grows and donates fresh fruits and vegetables to hunger relief agencies, such as food banks, throughout Colorado. The structure of the program provides opportunities for AES and Extension to engage and educate the public in the areas of local agriculture, science, hunger, and nutrition.

The Nutrition Education Program is led by Tri-River Extension agent Ann Duncan. Ann designs outreach material that accompanies the donated produce and leads hands-on activities in nutrition education using food grown by the Community Alliance. The goal of the Nutrition Education Program is to encourage food bank clients or class participants to increase the amount of produce they consume.

It is important to evaluate the Nutrition Education program’s efficacy in achieving its desired outcomes. The CSU Extension summer intern will work with Ann Duncan, Amanda McQuade, and community partners, such as food banks, to develop tools to answer the following questions:
• Does the availability of fresh produce at food banks change the short and long-term consumption behaviors of food bank clients?
• Does the availability of Nutrition Education cards change the short and long-term consumption behaviors of food bank clients?
• Do the hands-on activities in nutrition education change the short and long-term consumption behaviors of food bank clients?

What student learning outcomes do you anticipate and are there opportunities for professional development (e.g., attending conferences or stakeholder convenings)?
The intern will develop tools to measure the efficacy of the Nutrition Education Program within the Community Alliance for Education and Hunger Relief. This will include:
• Conducting research into existing assessment tools;
• If applicable, modifying or developing assessment tools for use by the Community Alliance;
• Working with local partner agencies on implementation of assessment tool; and
• Developing a best-practices guide and toolkit to be used by other AES and Extension programs with similar focus.

This project will require the intern to:
• Work independently to identify evaluation tools by thinking critically and integrating scientific information and research into practice;
• Work collaboratively with Community Alliance program coordinators to develop assessment tools that can be customized to fit the needs of the program;
• Spend time at a community site to learn the real-world application of evaluation tools; and
• Document and, possibly present, findings through best practices guides, annual reports, or meetings.

Are travel funds available? Opportunities to provide student assistance with housing?
Travel funds are available and the student will be welcome to live at the Orchard Mesa Research Station or Rogers Mesa Research Station residence rent-free.