The MnDRIVE Global Food Ventures (GFV) requests applications for the **graduate student professional development awards**. This initiative seeks to promote a broader and deeper understanding of our interconnected food systems through experiential cohort learning. Scholars will receive $13,000 to support their graduate education during the academic year and/or summer. Awardees must participate in specific experiential learning activities to broaden their understanding of our food supply chains, agribusinesses, and food policies. The award provides $4,000 funding for the **required** learning activities and $1,000 for elective experiential learning and professional development activities. Awards are for one year (August 31, 2020 – August 30, 2021) and are not renewable. Professional development funds must be utilized before Dec. 31, 2021.

**Eligibility and Criteria for Selection**

Applicants must be current PhD and Master's students in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS), the School of Public Health (SPH), or the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). Selection is based on academic record, research productivity, and career alignment with the goals of this initiative. The student's research should seek to bolster food production, policy, and food system solutions. Students conducting basic, applied, or translational research related to food are invited to apply. Examples include but are not limited to investigations that:

- **Enhance food production**, including identification and detection of emerging plant and animal diseases and evolving conditions that threaten the food supply system and public health
- **Seek interventions that limit microbial growth in food**, prevent contamination of food, reduce spoilage, and enhance detection of contamination or degradation of food
- **Prioritize supply chains efficiencies**, such as technology and policies to optimize food supply chains for sustainability, safety and resiliency, and respond to new regulations
- **Address economic factors** impacting food production systems, access to nutritious foods, and limit production losses and consumer food waste
- **Optimize positive determinants of livestock health and welfare** to not only ensure humane treatment but also to enhance productivity and reduce public health risks
- **Reduce impacts of food production on natural resources**, including water and soil quality, and enhancement of ecological systems including beneficial plants, insects and wildlife

**Application Checklist**

Please compile the Application Form and your curriculum vitae into a single pdf and submit electronically to [this link](#) by **5:00 pm, March 20, 2020**. The application must include:

- **Application cover page** (attached) including a career goals statement relevant to this MnDRIVE initiative.
- **Statement of purpose** briefly describing the research question and how the work aligns to this MnDRIVE initiative as outlined above (1 page).
- **Curriculum vitae** that include previous education, honors/awards, research experiences, as well as lists of publications, patents, and conference abstract titles (2 pages maximum).
- **Recommendation letter** (1-2 pages). Attach a letter from the major advisor supporting your participation in this program and your rationale for participating.
- **Unofficial copy of current UMN transcript** demonstrating academic excellence.

**Questions or Contacts**

Please address your questions to the Associate Dean for your respective graduate program:
Dr. Greg Cuomo, [cfansgradcc@umn.edu](mailto:cfansgradcc@umn.edu) (CFANS), Dr. Beth Virnig, [virni001@umn.edu](mailto:virni001@umn.edu) (SPH); or Dr. Mark Rutherford, [ruthe003@umn.edu](mailto:ruthe003@umn.edu) (CVM)
Enhanced Learning Opportunities for MnDRIVE Awardees

**Purpose:** The GFV Professional Development Awards seek to support and broaden the training of graduate students conducting research in the areas of food systems, safety, and security. Graduates with a broader understanding of food production, processing, protection, and policies will be better able to apply their disciplinary expertise to advance MN food economies and improve the lives of Minnesotans. We have identified several opportunities that MnDRIVE GFV Awardees are required and/or encouraged to participate in, through which their awareness of our food systems will be heightened. Payment for required learning activities will be coordinated through the GFV staff.

**Required participation**
(Requirements may change based on course availability).

- **World Food Prize / Borlaug Dialog conference** *October 14-16 2020* in Des Moines, IA
  - Registration/travel/lodging will be arranged by the MnDRIVE staff.
  - **Boreas Leadership Program Certificate Workshops**
    - Selected workshops *(dates TBD)*
      - Integrated Leadership
      - Speaking Science *(Spring 2020)*
      - Building Better Presentations
      - Designing a Meaningful Career

- **Summer Public Health Institute Courses** *(Must choose at least 1 credit)* *May-June, 2021* (we will register as Continuing Education Credits) **NOTE-** catalog available January 2021, examples include:
  - SPH7210-102 Class #88042 Global Food Systems: Produce (0.5 cr)
  - SPH7200-106 Class #88053 Monitoring and Evaluation for Global Programs (1 cr)
  - SPH7200-114 Class #88046 Eat, Pray, Regulate: Analysis of the Current Food Regulatory System (1 cr)
  - SPH7200-115 Class #88047 Food, Politics, and Health in the United States: Focus on Obesity (1 cr)
  - SPH7210-101 Class #88040 Global Food Systems: Pork (0.5 cr)
  - SPH7231-101 Class #87616 Surveillance of Foodborne Pathogens in Humans (1 cr)
  - SPH7235-101 Class #87571 Surveillance of Zoonotic Pathogens in Animals (1 cr)

**Suggested Elective Enhanced Learning and Professional Development Opportunities**

- Attending an international conference during which you present your research
- **Graduate School Calendar of Professional Development Events and Workshops**
- **Boreas Leadership Program Certificate Completion**
- CMB5910: **Grant Writing- What Makes a Winning Proposal?** (2 cr) *Spring 2021*
- PubH6181: **Surveillance of Food-borne Diseases and Food Safety Hazards** (2 cr) *Fall 2021*
- VMED5440: **Estimating Food Safety Risks on the Farm-to-Table Continuum** (2 cr), *Spring 2021*
- PubH6955: **Using Policy to Address Childhood and Adolescent Obesity Prevention** (2 cr), *Spring 2021*
**Applicant Information**

Full Name:  
Email Address:  
Telephone:  

Graduate Program:  
Degree Program:  ☐ PhD  ☐ Master’s (Plan A only)  ☐ MPH  
Thesis Advisor:  

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**Prior Academic Training** (if applicable)

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**Personal Statement** *In the space provided, describe how this award will advance your career aspirations.*

*The University of Minnesota is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer.*
Research Statement In the space provided, describe your research and its relevance to this MnDRIVE Program.

Title:
Attach Advisor Letter of Reference here:
Attach Unofficial University of Minnesota Transcripts here: