Position Description: Terp Farm Student Summer Staff

Terp Farm is a four-season sustainable vegetable farming operation located 15 miles from campus, at the University’s Central Maryland Research and Education Center, Upper Marlboro Facility. Established in 2014 as a collaboration between the Department of Dining Services and the College of Agriculture and Natural resources, the farm provides fresh produce to the campus dining halls and food-insecure members of the campus community through donations to the Campus pantry. Additionally, the farm has served as a “living laboratory” for students of the University to engage in practical farming applications and learn skills and concepts that are imperative to running a successful farming operation.

In 2018, the Department of Dining Services and College of Agriculture and Natural Resources are seeking student staff members for employment on the farm. The position runs from early April through late October and offers $10.25 per hour. Housing on the Upper Marlboro Facility may also be available. The Terp Farm Manager will support the Terp Farm Student Staff by incorporating education and mentorship throughout the workday, as well as opportunities for field trips and workshops, based upon Student Staff interest. The Terp Farm Student Staff will support the Terp Farm Manager in the following aspects of farm operations including:

- **Production**
  - Field operations including cultivation and tillage, bed preparation, planting, fertilizing, pest and disease control, irrigation, mulching, trellising, and weeding.
  - High tunnel operations including hand-scale bed preparation, planting, trellising, pest and disease control, irrigation, weeding, and maintenance of structures.
  - Greenhouse production including soil mix preparations, seeding, thinning, environmental monitoring, pest and disease control, and sanitation.
  - Post-harvest handling including washing and packing, sanitation, pest monitoring, record-keeping, and worker hygiene.

- **Infrastructure**
  - Light construction and site development projects such as building greenhouse benches and spreading mulch and gravel.
  - Basic maintenance of tools and equipment including cleaning and sharpening, checking fluid levels, and following proper storage procedures.

- **Recordkeeping**
  - Daily note-taking and assistance in maintaining farm log books for food safety and production records.

**Physical Demands/Work Environment:**

- Occasional work must be performed outside of normal work hours due to weather and other factors
- Hazardous materials - petroleum based fluids, exhaust, pesticides, sanitation chemicals.
- Wear and work in Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
- Working environment may have allergens—dust, mold, grasses, etc.
- Extreme weather conditions - Heat, wind, and rain
- Heavy lifting - 50 lb Max
Work Schedule:

Spring Semester Work Schedule: April 2nd - May 19th, 10 hrs per week, Tu-F, Sa
Summer Work Schedule: May 21st - August 24th, 40 hrs per week, M-F
Fall Semester Work Schedule: August 27th - December 10th, 10 hrs per week, Tu-F, Sa

- During the Spring and Fall semesters, crew members must be able to consistently work a 4 hour shift on one weekday (M-F) each week, and 6 hours on Saturdays with the full farm crew.
- Summer work schedules will be regular full-time, with rotating weekend shifts for irrigation and greenhouse watering.
- Time off will be allowed with adequate notice for scheduling purposes.

Eligibility:

Successful candidates should consider themselves to be hard-working, self-motivated, detail oriented, and able to demonstrate good communication skills under pressure. It is very important to be able to take direction and have a well developed work ethic in order to work on a farm.

While previous farming experience or working outside is generally preferred, it is not required. However it is essential that candidates are committed to vegetable farming and all that it requires, including being able to lift 50 lbs regularly, and work outside in all weather conditions from rain to mid-summer heat. Preference will be given to those candidates that have at least 3 months of previous farming experience, including previously working at Terp Farm. Having a well developed interest in the realm of sustainable agriculture and food systems studies is also a plus.

A valid driver’s license is required as well as a means for traveling to and from the farm. Carpooling is encouraged.

This position may count toward internship credit.

To Apply: Please send a cover letter, resume, and two references to terpfarm@umd.edu. Please write "Terp Farm Student Staff” in the subject of your email.

The one-page cover letter should address the following questions:

- Why do you want to work at Terp Farm, aside from simply working outdoors?
- What are your best qualifications for the position?
- What personal goals are you hoping to achieve from this position?
- Describe any experience you have in agriculture or growing vegetables.

Applications are due March 5, 2018