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**U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)**

**Minority-focused Multi-level Engagement through Research Integrated Team Projects Across Agriculture Disciplines (MERIT)**

**APPLICATION FORM**

**Highlights/Requirements of the MERIT Project:**

* Stipends and possible conference travel support
* Team research project involving students at different levels
* Direct communication and interaction with faculty members.
* Must be currently enrolled in a high school or at Texas A&M University-Kingsville (undergraduate or graduate)
* Must be a U.S. Citizen or National of the United States

***Please Print or Type. Complete all items, if not applicable then please write ‘NA’ in the space.***

**Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Mailing Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**\_

**Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell #**:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email Address:\*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\*Please note: You will be notified by email if selected so please type or write legibly.**

**Please check one of the options and answer its related questions:**

\_\_\_\_I am a current student at TAMUK; K#: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current Major \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Cumulative GPA\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are you an undergraduate student? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a graduate student? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

Do you currently receive Pell Grant from Texas A&M University-Kingsville? Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Not Sure\_\_\_\_

Are you currently qualified for Financial Aid or receiving Financial Aid? Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Not Sure\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_I am a current student at a high school;

Name of the high school: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of the School District where your high school is located: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is your current level in high school? Freshman\_\_\_\_\_ Sophomore\_\_\_\_\_ Junior\_\_\_\_\_ Senior\_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer the following questions:**

Are you a U.S. Citizen or National of the United States? Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If selected, will you be able to come to the campus of Texas A&M University-Kingsville in person to participate in the research project? Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If selected, will you be able to participate in the research project virtually? Yes\_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**(More information/questions on the next page)**

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**Please provide the following demographic information as part of the application form.**

**Ethnicity:** □ Hispanic or Latino □ Not Hispanic or Latino

**Race: *(Choose one or more responses)*** □ American Indian or Alaskan Native □ Asian

□ Black or African American □ White

□ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

□ Other (please specify):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Gender:**  □ Male □ Female □ Other (please specify):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Disability:** □ Hearing □ Visual □ Mobility/Orthopedic □ None □ Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**How did you find this opportunity?**

□ From USDA website □ From TAMUK website

□ From your friends or faculty/teachers □ Others: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**To Complete Your Application, you must submit the following materials:**

***1) your completed application form (this form) with your signature,***

***2) a current unofficial transcript,***

***3) resume, and***

***4) a one-page essay discussing your interests in this opportunity, any leadership activities or community service you did, your desire or interests in pursuing a career at USDA or in food, agricultural, and natural resource systems, and the potential for adding diversity***

**EMAIL YOUR COMPLETE APPLICATION PACKAGE TO:**

Mrs. Yi Ren, Project Manager, Texas A&M University-Kingsville

[Yi.Ren@tamuk.edu](mailto:Yi.Ren@tamuk.edu)

361-593-3555

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**Signature of Applicant Date**