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Class of 2019: Land O'Lakes, Inc. Announces Global Experience Fellowship Opportunity to Address Food Security

Arden Hills, Minn. (August 29, 2016) – Land O'Lakes, Inc. today announced the opening of the application period for the third year of a unique fellowship, the [Global Food Challenge Emerging Leaders for Food Security™](#) Program. Interested students, entering their sophomore year for the 2016-2017 academic year at [eligible schools](#), are encouraged to apply by October 31, 2016.

“We need the best and brightest to meet the current and future challenges of food security,” stated Lydia Botham, vice president, Community Relations and Land O'Lakes Foundation. “A job in modern agriculture has evolved to a technologically-advanced, complex and vital field with a higher purpose. Career choices in food and agriculture are as dynamic as the industry itself – from seed geneticists and soil conservationists to supply chain analysts, marketers and economists. We encourage students to take a look at this great growth industry and find out for themselves the amazing opportunities to help feed the world – and to feed human progress.”

The application process and selection of finalists

Because a broad mix of skills is needed to find new ways of feeding the growing population, students are selected through a competitive application process that includes wide-ranging education disciplines from agronomy and environmental science to nutrition, finance and marketing. The application consists of a two-step process that includes submitting a one-minute video, a 200-word essay, a brief questionnaire and a resume. Students must have an expected graduation date of May 2019 or December 2019.

Students from the following Universities are eligible to apply:

- Purdue University
- Iowa State University
- The George Washington University
- University of Minnesota
- Northwestern University
- University of Wisconsin – Madison

The student experience runs from December 2016 through August 2017. Winners will be notified of their selection by November 18, 2016.

More on eligibility requirements can be found here: <http://foodchallenge.landolakesinc.com/about-the-program/eligibility-requirements/>

Application link: <http://foodchallenge.landolakesinc.com/application-form>

The experience

Throughout the academic year, Emerging Leaders work closely with their university professors, delving into challenging assignments designed to spur their thinking about food security issues and to educate others. The experience includes summer work in key Land O'Lakes, Inc. locations, including headquarters in Minnesota and producers and rural agriculture cooperatives across the United States. The students also will spend time in Washington, D.C. with policymakers and agricultural experts and will travel internationally as well. They address issues such as sustainability, global supply chains, ensuring broader access to new developments in agriculture, and empowering change in communities here at home and across the globe. Emerging Leaders participate in a number of special events between December 2016 and October 2017, and serve as an ambassador for agriculture and the food industry.

Program background

Land O'Lakes, Inc. created the [Global Food Challenge](#) program in 2014 to engage future leaders in the challenges and opportunities facing agriculture in the coming decades. The program allows students to learn more about Land O'Lakes' industry-leading operations, from farm to fork, sustainable food production and its efforts in international development. With the global population increasing from 7 to 9.6 billion by 2050, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates this will require a 70 percent increase in food production at the same time that natural resources are decreasing.

[Land O'Lakes, Inc.](#) is committed to improving food security at home and across the globe, helping farmers grow more food in increasingly sustainable and productive ways. Through growing commercial businesses, Land O'Lakes, Inc. helps feed people, crops and animals. The company fights hunger, supports education and strengthens communities in the U.S. through the Land O'Lakes, Inc. Foundation in surrounding areas where employees and members live and work. Since 1981, [Land O'Lakes International Development](#) has been assisting farmers in developing countries improve the quality and quantity of what they produce and linking them to functioning markets. Through this work, International Development staff has implemented 280 programs in 80 countries, engaging in agricultural and enterprise partnerships that replace poverty with prosperity and dependency with self-reliance.

Program questions: Contact Brandi Schoenberg at FoodChallenge@LandOLakes.com.

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[About Land O'Lakes, Inc.](#)

Land O'Lakes, Inc., one of America's premier agribusiness and food companies, is a member-owned cooperative with industry-leading operations that span the spectrum from agricultural production to consumer foods. With 2015 annual sales of \$13 billion, Land O'Lakes is one of the nation's largest cooperatives, ranking 215 on the Fortune 500. Building on a legacy of more than 95 years of operation, Land O'Lakes today operates some of the most respected brands in agribusiness and food production including LAND O LAKES® Dairy Foods, Purina Animal Nutrition and WinField US. The company does business in all 50 states and more than 60 countries. Land O'Lakes, Inc. corporate headquarters are located in Arden Hills, Minn.