



Iowa Bulletin: 360-23-2

Date: April 18, 2023

Subject: PER – Announce Tri-State Cultivating Future Leaders

Purpose. To announce the tri-state Cultivating Future Leaders (CFL) NRCS Cohorts for the fiscal year (FY) 2023 session.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2024

Background. This bulletin announces the tri-state Cultivating Future Leaders (CFL) NRCS Cohorts for the FY 2023 session. The CFL program has become a major component in a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) strategic approach to developing leadership talent for the future of the agency.

Explanation. CFL is a 12-month training program conducted jointly by the NRCS leadership in Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa and is set to begin in April 2023. This program targets high-performing, high-potential NRCS employees at the GS-11 and GS-12 grade levels. Exceptional employees at the GS-9 grade level who are eligible to compete for a GS-11 position may also be considered. The target audience is not limited to employees currently holding leadership positions. The CFL program guarantees the participant a unique opportunity to develop leadership competencies but there is no guarantee of future promotion or placement in a particular position. Participants from each state will work individually and in teams to accomplish their CFL training goals.

The training program will include (pending no travel restrictions for in-person events):

- three face-to-face formal training sessions,
- monthly webinars conducted throughout 2023, into 2024,
- executive coaching,
- a job shadow opportunity with a member of leadership, and
- a leadership tour of National Headquarters in Washington, DC.

The 1-year program will culminate at an in-person training and graduation event tentatively scheduled for February 2024.

We are very excited about this endeavor to mentor and train employees to grow future leaders in this agency to remain at the forefront of conservation and successful partnering with local government for the benefit of private lands.

Iowa Participants:

Kelsey Blodgett, Resource Team Lead, Creston
Jessica Downey, EQIP Program Coordinator, Des Moines
Megan Trout, Management Analyst, Des Moines
Adam Gottemoeller, DC, Mount Ayr
Helen Leavenworth, DC, Marion
Giles Munden, Resource Conservationist, Creston
Dave York, Resource Team Lead, Audubon

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Nebraska Participants:

Georgette Jordening, District Conservationist, Scottsbluff, NE
Kevin Lamken, Area Technology Specialist, Grand Island, NE
Camilla Kerner, District Conservationist, Holdrege, NE
Miles Anderson, Resource Conservationist, Pierce, NE
Jamie Thoene, Resource Conservationist, Wahoo, NE
Aaron Hird, State Soil Health Specialist, Lincoln, NE
Kristy King, Resource Conservationist, North Platte, NE

Minnesota Participants:

Lisa Buckner, State Appeals Specialist, St. Paul, MN
Elizabeth Dawson, District Conservationist, Farmington, MN
Katie Evans, District Conservationist, Elk River, MN
Daniel Jarosz, Resource Conservationist – Easements, Mankato, MN
Dustin Jasken, Area Resource Conservationist, Detroit Lakes, MN
Luther Newton, Customer Service Team Lead, Crookston, MN
Allison Praet, Customer Service Team Lead, Duluth, MN

Contact. Refer questions about the program or the application process to your supervisor, respective leadership team member, or Carolyn Christian, Acting ASTC-M&S.

JAIA FISCHER
Acting State Conservationist