

# CAREERS IN AG PROGRAM

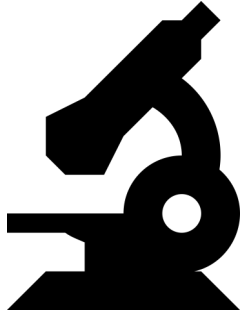


Western Growers has launched the Careers in Ag Program to encourage interested and qualified students from partner colleges to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) careers within the California agricultural industry. With 60,000 job openings annually in agriculture and only 35,000 graduates available to fill them, Western Growers is helping to lead the effort in building a highly-skilled agricultural workforce and shaping the next generation of agriculture pioneers.

## THE PROGRAM

- Goals:**
- 1) Encourage students to pursue and apply their STEM-related degrees toward a career in agriculture.
  - 2) Facilitate career placement between students and agricultural organizations.

**Program Description:** 15-20 students competitively and representatively selected from partner colleges participate in a three-day tour of agricultural and technology operations in Salinas and other locations in Monterey County.

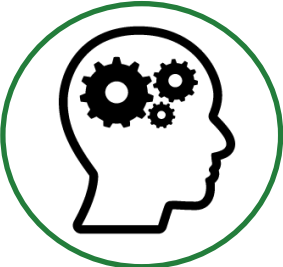


The first cohort—16 students from Cal Poly Pomona and UC Davis—participated in the pilot program on June 13-15, 2016.

## THE TOUR

Students are introduced to the educational pathways (e.g., courses, majors, internships) that lead to STEM careers in agriculture and related industries. Career advisors from the partner colleges are in attendance to make a direct connection between the curriculum and potential STEM careers in agriculture. Guest speakers also join the group during lunch and dinner to give students one-on-one interaction with agricultural professionals in the STEM field. The tour focuses on companies with STEM-related career opportunities and emphasize the following :

- **CROP SCIENCE**  
➔ breeding, genetics, physiology
- **ECOLOGY**  
➔ conservation, sustainable food systems
- **ENGINEERING & ROBOTICS**  
➔ harvesting equipment, processing systems



- **INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY**
- **FOOD SAFETY**
- **PEST & DISEASE MANAGEMENT**
- **SOIL SCIENCE**  
➔ nutrient management