

## USDA Graduate Student Climate Adaptation Scholars Program

**Nominations Due Monday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

The **USDA Northeast Climate Hub** has been building a network of collaborations, connecting stakeholders to the information they need on climate for sound decision-making, and working to enhance agricultural resilience in a changing climate. Rutgers University participates in the Hub as one of 16 University partner institutions from 12 Northeastern states from West Virginia to Maine.

This spring the Hub is launching the **Graduate Student Climate Adaptation Partners (GradCAP)** program to enhance the engagement of graduate students (Masters or PhD) from the partner institutions who are conducting research on climate adaptation in agriculture (including aquaculture) and forestry. Up to 3 students from Rutgers will be eligible in the inaugural cohort.

Candidates must be conducting natural or social science research addressing aspects of climate adaptation in the context of agronomic, horticultural, aquacultural or forest systems, their research can occur outside of the Northeastern US but must be applicable to the Northeastern US, and they must be graduate students through the 2018 calendar year.

**What is expected of the student?** The GradCAP Scholars will have the opportunity to participate in several 1 hour topical webinars during the spring of 2018. When we reconvene in the fall of 2018, each Scholar will have the opportunity to present as part of a GradCAP Scholar webinar series. The subject of the presentation will be their research, no matter what phase they are in (just getting started or in the home stretch). The video webinars in the fall will be open to all interested parties, from stakeholders to USDA administrators, and the Scholars themselves. Additional material such as images, fact sheets or video that some students might develop as part of their regular research activities will become part of a library of information on the USDA Northeast Hub web site, including recordings of the webinar series from the fall. Student research can be conducted anywhere, and does not necessarily have to be a field-based research project, although the emphasis in this program is on the northeastern U.S.

**What is the advantage to the student?** The goals are to build a network and enhance communication among this cohort of professionals-in-training throughout the Northeast region, introduce these students to the USDA Northeast Hub community, provide visibility for their research well beyond their typical professional communities, and allow them to note their involvement by adding to their credentials that they were a Scholar in the 2018 USDA Northeast Climate Hub GradCAP program. The success of this initiative will also inform USDA administration about the merits of additional investments in graduate student programs in the years to come.

Faculty can directly nominate a student or students can apply directly.

Nominations should include:

1. Student Name
2. Department
3. Degree sought and anticipated completion date
4. Faculty Advisor
5. Research Project Title

6. Brief Statement (no more than 200 words) as to why the student and her/his research merits participation in the program (please include relationship to climate adaptation and applicability to the Northeastern US)
7. A statement of endorsement from the student's advisor.

Nominees may attach a cv but it is not required.

**Deadline: Send nominations by 5:00 PM, Monday March 5, 2018 to Dr. Marjorie Kaplan, Associate Director, Rutgers Climate Institute via email: [kaplan@envsci.rutgers.edu](mailto:kaplan@envsci.rutgers.edu).**