however, were hesitant to describe themselves as experts in the delivery of advanced veterinary science curriculum. As this pilot veterinary science course is fully integrated into the program, replication of this study to track potential increase in efficacy from prolonged exposure to advanced curriculum is recommended. Practitioner recommendations included prescribed professional development related to skills and abilities required to teach the veterinary science content.

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Teaching Innovation Creatively in a Week

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Today, innovation is critical to firms’ survival and therefore needs to be taught to students. At Purpan, a week long course was therefore developed. The objective of the presentation is therefore to discuss this successful curriculum, particularly the methods used to teach about innovation in a creative way. The process used to develop the curriculum and the steps taken to secure speakers will be presented. The presentation would conclude with our plans for next year's course based on students' feedbacks. The week started with an ice breaker followed by a creative session where students had to find innovative solutions to problems (e.g., how to improve society’s image about agriculture?) Students also met with a young entrepreneur who explained his struggling path at creating an innovative product. This was contrasted by the presentation by a large company of its structured management of the innovation process. A regional association also came to explain how they assist companies in their innovation process. The organization that is in charge of delivering intellectual property rights presented the different types of rights and methods to protect innovation. A cooperative introduced students to their innovation process, its management and illustrated with specific concrete examples that were launched. This week long course concluded with a student group project where students could apply the principles learned. According to the survey, students enjoyed this course very much and found it useful for the future. They felt better prepared to address innovation in their future professional career armed with concrete tools.

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Recruiting and Retaining National Needs Fellows in the Area of Sciences for Agricultural Biosecurity

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Our objective was to recruit and retain three outstanding doctoral fellows from groups under-represented in the area of sciences for agricultural biosecurity. We prepared a one-page advertisement with details about the eligibility, benefits, background and other fellowship requirements. We advertised broadly using several innovative methods, including resources and programs developed by the Graduate Center for Diversity and Access (GCDA), and the CO-AMP (The Colorado Alliance for Minority Participation) alliance at Colorado State University, professional societies’ websites and meetings, online list-serves, and project directors’ professional contacts. We received over 30 email and phone enquiries from students throughout the US. We shortlisted these candidates based on their background, overall GPA, GRE scores, GIS experience, and other critical skills needed to pursue a PhD degree in Agricultural Biosecurity related to the science and management of harmful invasive species. We successfully recruited three outstanding fellows who satisfied program requisites. Two of our NNF fellows are from under-represented minority groups; a woman and an African-American male (originally from Ethiopia). All three fellows have successfully completed their course work with an average GPA >3.7, and have advanced to candidacy (passed qualifying examination). Fellows are actively engaged in multiple experiential learning activities nationally and internationally. All of them have already published at least one peer-reviewed paper, and are making excellent progress on their PhD research. Our program will contribute nationally to the National Needs Fellowship (NNF) program goals by increasing the number of highly trained scientists, particularly from under-represented groups, in the sciences for agricultural biosecurity.