The Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of National Marine Sanctuary, Pacific Island Region are pleased to announce a new partnership that will offer Hawaii graduate and undergraduate students one-year paid fellowships in NOAA agency offices to acquire career-related job experiences and skills. We are particularly interested in providing opportunities to underrepresented minorities such as those of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander ancestry.

The program will be initiated in 2009 by offering fellowships to three Masters level graduate students within their final year of study, or those that have recently graduated within the previous semester. Fellows will begin their fellowship year in the fall with an orientation to the HIMB-NOAA partnership, to familiarize them with some of the science that supports the partnership.

Each Fellow will be assigned a mentor within their regional office that will meet with the Fellow on a weekly basis to help guide the student’s progress, provide feedback, and offer career advice. Students will develop, in consultation with their mentor and the Fellowship coordinator, a set of professional development goals that they hope to accomplish during their Fellowship.

Fellows will work 20 hours/week for 2 semesters within a NOAA Pacific Region office, followed by a full-time 2-month internship in the federal office of the respective NOAA agency. This summer component will help broaden the experience for local students, as well as better contextualize their regional efforts at the national level. The annual stipend will be sufficient to cover housing and subsistence costs for the Fellow while in D.C.

As a culminating exercise, the Fellows will write a 10-15 page summary of their experiences, including a description of the professional activities they conducted and their impacts, as well as a personal reflection of their own professional growth. These papers will be distributed to participating NOAA offices and will be collated, along with survey results, into a summative program impact statement for publication.

The application process will begin in May, 2009.

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