Undergraduate Summer Research Internship

School of Environmental Science

ADVISOR: DR. MICHAEL DIXON
START: MAY 15, 2018
DURATION: 16 WEEKS
SALARY: UP TO $16/HR, dependent on qualifications

Project Overview

The Controlled Environment Systems research group (CESRF) and Intravision Light Systems (ILS) have been engineering and testing horticultural LED systems for plant production since 2007. ILS has recently expanded its development program to include the design and construction of complete vertical farming systems for indoor agriculture. The first prototype, commercial-scale 'farm' has been installed in the GTA and will be fully operational by F'2018. Among the challenges for this new and innovative plant production and horticultural management strategy is the poor availability of trained personnel familiar with the highly automated technical approach and the assessments of plant-environment interactions this ongoing research collaboration is committed to explore.

Title: High density food production in urban agriculture

Areas of Study/Interest/background:

- Plant Physiology | Biology
- Microbiology
- Horticulture
- Environmental Science

Project Outline

The undergraduate summer intern will assist in a high-density food production project in collaboration with our industry partner, Intravision Light Systems. Activities will involve seeding, harvesting and packaging romaine lettuce plants; maintenance of clean work spaces; pilot facility operations training; participation in group meetings. They will have an opportunity to learn experimental design; practical concerns for carrying out controlled experimentation; and marketing issues related to urban agriculture. Along with these opportunities, the successful candidate will have the opportunity to work with a diverse team of research scientists and technicians toward a common goal. Regular travel to the GTA will be required.

The ideal candidate will be a 4th year undergraduate with some plant production background (environmental sciences, horticultural sciences) and be interested in perusing an MSc degree in F'2018. However, all applications will be considered. Successful candidate must hold a valid Ontario G class drivers license.

To apply please send resume with cover letter and most recent unofficial transcript to:

Theresa Rondeau Vuk, Program Manager, CESRF
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