



NCEL



## Mississippi River Sustainable Agriculture Fellow

**Deadline:** April 29, 2022

**Start Date:** May/June

**End Date:** May/June 2023

**Compensation:** \$40,000 - 45,000

**Hours:** 40 hours/week, approximately 20 at each organization

**Location:** Remote, located in a mainstem Mississippi River state

**Summary:** National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL) and Mississippi River Network (MRN) seeks a highly motivated fellow who is passionate about the environment to support our Mississippi River Legislative Caucus (MRLC) and MRN programs. This is a joint position where the candidate will get an opportunity to work with both organizations and gain a wide range of skills and experience.

The MRLC and MRN program focuses on water quality and river health. The MRN/MRLC Fellow will work on topics related to nutrient pollution, floodplain resilience, sustainable agriculture, and soil health, and will lead outreach efforts to legislative leaders in target states and coordinate an NRCS mentorship training program in collaboration with a Green Lands Blue Waters, an MRN member. The fellow will also help track state legislation, draft educational policy materials, participate in strategy meetings, and plan events. This is a full-time, remote position. The fellow will be supervised by the Project Manager for Sustainable Agriculture and Water and Policy Director of MRN. The fellow will have the opportunity to connect with members of NCEL's and MRN's staff and partners across the country. The start and end dates are flexible based on the intern's school semester.

The Mississippi River Network (MRN) is a coalition of 60 organizations that have joined together to protect and restore the Mississippi River. MRN has several initiatives: 1) a public communications program 2) improved and amended state and federal policies that restore and protect the River, and 3) promoting communication and collaboration among the MRN members and partner organizations. We are a small, passionate learning organization, focused on improving the health of the River for all. We believe that a diversity of people and ideas strengthens our work, our workplace, and our communities. We celebrate this diversity and we are committed to advancing practices that create an equitable and inclusive workplace. We take equal opportunity seriously and we welcome and support all applicants and team members. Additional information can be found at [www.mississippiriver.org](http://www.mississippiriver.org).

NCEL is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working with environmentally-committed state lawmakers to advance pro-environment initiatives in the states and defend against the rollback of environmental safeguards. The organization comprises a nationwide network of over 1,000 state legislators with membership in all 50 states and from both major parties. We conduct both issue-focused and regional projects, and our forums provide an opportunity for legislators to learn about

emerging environmental issues and collaborate with their colleagues from other states. For more information, visit [www.ncelenviro.org](http://www.ncelenviro.org).

**Responsibilities:**

- The three main responsibilities are (1) general support for Mississippi River watershed resilience policy (e.g. material drafting, identifying experts, and organizing online events) (2) outreach to state legislators, and 3) coordinating logistics for a new mentorship and training program for future leaders entering the field of agricultural conservation.
- Research and analyze state and federal legislation related to sustainable agriculture (such as water quality, nutrient pollution, soil health, floodplain restoration, equity, and Farm Bill conservation programs).
- Collaborate with NCEL and MRN staff to identify and recruit experts for sustainable agriculture policy and educational sessions (in-person meetings are tentative pending the outlook of the global COVID-19 pandemic).
- Develop event materials and provide support with event logistics as needed (such as NCEL's Mississippi River Tour, MRN's River Days of Action, and mentorship training events).

**Qualifications:**

- Work experience or coursework in watershed science and management, or related field.
- Open to current students and recent graduates.
- Interest in engaging with lower river stakeholders and issues
- Experience in Microsoft Office suite products, Google applications, and basic database management.
- Attention to detail and strong written and verbal communication skills. Must be comfortable multitasking and be organized.
- Expressed commitment to and understanding of environmental justice principles, with a growth-oriented mindset.
- Experience working with diverse stakeholders, with a dedication to collaboration and networking.
- Experience planning and executing events is preferred.
- Ability to work independently and within a team setting is essential.

**Benefits:**

This is a full-time position. Benefits include health insurance, dental and vision insurance, paid time off, 403 (b) plan.

**To Apply:**

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and three professional references as a single PDF detailing your interests and qualifications to the MRN Executive Director, Kelly McGinnis at [kmcginnis@1mississippi.org](mailto:kmcginnis@1mississippi.org). Applications are due by April 29, 2022. Include "Mississippi River Fellow 2022" in the subject line. No phone calls, please.

NCEL and MRN are committed to hiring and retaining a diverse workforce and strongly encourage applications from groups that have been historically underrepresented, including but not limited to women and people of color. NCEL makes hiring decisions without regard to gender, race, color,

religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, or any other protected class. NCEL does not lobby for or against any state or federal legislation.