

CERSA Internship Program Brief 2024

Time of Program: mid-May 2024 to mid-August 2024

Submitted by: Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST)

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Location: Remote, possible travel to the Ames, Iowa CAST office

Travel: Minimal, possible travel to CAST publication rollouts

Brief Description of Company/Agency:

The Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) convenes and coordinates networks of experts to assemble, interpret, and communicate credible, unbiased, science-based information to policymakers, the media, the private sector, and the public. CAST educates these audiences through various publications, webinars, videos, social media, and in-person education and networking events.

CAST was established in 1972 because of a 1970 meeting sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences and National Research Council that identified the need for more robust and effective communication around agricultural science and technology. CAST is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with a membership composed of scientific and professional societies, universities, companies, nonprofits, libraries, and individuals. CAST's board is composed of representatives from these member organizations. CAST has a Board of Directors and Board of Trustees that are composed of leaders from a diverse number of organizations.

The wide distribution of CAST publications and other outputs to non-scientists enhances the education and understanding of decision-makers in government, academia, the private sector, and beyond. At a time when the internet has made it more difficult to separate accurate and inaccurate information, it has never been more critical for reputable, unbiased, science-based organizations to deliver trusted, non-partisan information from authorities in their respective fields.

CAST's primary work is the publication of task force reports, commentaries, special publications, and issue papers written by volunteer experts—scientists, economists, legal and regulatory experts, and other individuals from many disciplines. These documents cover issues related to food science, animal science, and plant science. These publications increasingly focus on the regulatory, social, and environmental aspects of the topics they explore. CAST heavily relies upon the support of its members and other volunteers for the studies, publications, and products that educate CAST's primary audiences on important issues impacting agricultural science and technology.

Internship Program Description:

The CAST Regulatory Affairs Intern will create and compile resources from CAST publications and communications that are of value to individuals working in regulatory affairs. The deliverables created by the intern will include, but will not be limited to,

social media content, resource catalogs, surveys and assessments, and multi-media products. The materials will be distributed to stakeholders for use as foundational materials in legislative and regulatory decisions. The intern will also assist with drafting a strategic plan for building CAST's reach and impact in the regulatory community through education resources and communication best practices. Lastly, the intern will assist with the launch of CAST publications, therein interacting with private-sector, public-sector, and nonprofit leaders in the regulatory affairs space.

Outcomes from this Opportunity Include:

- A curated catalog of CAST resources (multi-media) to distribute scientific information to support regulatory and legislative decision making.
- Regulatory affairs-related education materials based on issues previously identified in CAST publications.
- A database of subject matter experts, leaders, administrators, and legislative contacts that have an interest in and/or impact upon agricultural regulatory issues.
- A survey of CAST internal and external audiences focused on identifying areas where CAST resources are of greatest value in regulatory matters.
- Project management experience through interaction with CAST work groups working on publications and proposals touching on agricultural regulatory issues.
- An improved understanding of current regulatory affairs through the identification and monitoring of media notices related to regulatory issues.
- An improved network of contacts from private sector, public sector, and nonprofit organizations.