

## **F26.07 Farmers Market Geographic Research & Outreach Interns-to-Scholars**

### **Overview**

This Interns-to-Scholars position will support a course-based undergraduate research experience (CURE) linked to GSP 148: Foods of the U.S., as part of the NSF-funded Multiscale RECIPES for Sustainable Food Systems program. Led by Dr. Josh Merced, this project builds on prior research funded by NAU's Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity to conduct a qualitative study of farmers markets in northern Arizona. The research examines how farmers markets foster a sense of community, promote sustainable practices, and ensure economic viability. The intern will act as a liaison between farmers market managers, student researchers, and Dr. Merced (Project PI). Responsibilities include assisting students with geographic research methods and visualizations that support both farmers market partners and the broader NAU research community. Currently, the project collaborates with the Prescott Farmers Market and the Flagstaff Mountain Town Market.

### **What the student will DO and LEARN**

The Interns-to-Scholars student will play a key role in organizing and innovating a structured research project within a high-enrollment general studies course, GSP 148: Foods of the U.S. Supporting a cohort of 48+ undergraduate students, the intern will promote the value of geographic research to both students and community partners. They will co-facilitate research method demonstrations, helping students apply qualitative and spatial research techniques in the field. As the primary liaison between partnered farmers market managers and the course research team, the intern will ensure clear and effective communication. Additionally, they will assist in preparing visualizations such as ArcGIS StoryMaps and promotional materials to support outreach and analysis of fieldwork results. To facilitate student fieldwork, the intern will undergo driver training, enabling them to assist in transporting students to partnered farmers markets. Through this experience, the intern will gain hands-on research skills, experience in community-based collaboration, and proficiency in geographic visualization tools.

### **Additional benefits**

Beyond the hands-on research experience, the Interns-to-Scholars student will become closely connected to the geography and urban planning community at NAU, expanding their professional network through campus and community initiatives. This internship will diversify their professional portfolio, providing a unique experience they can highlight in job interviews or graduate school applications. By serving as a liaison and research facilitator, the student will gain valuable peer mentorship and leadership experience, guiding fellow undergraduates through the research process. This role will strengthen their ability to communicate complex ideas, collaborate with diverse stakeholders, and manage project logistics—critical skills for careers in geography, urban planning, sustainability, and related fields. Through direct engagement with community partners and faculty, the student will develop confidence in their professional abilities while contributing to meaningful, real-world research.

### **Additional qualifications**

- \* Geography, Environment, and Society Major or Minor preferred
- \* Ability to undergo university driver training
- \* Experience using ESRI Suite applications such as ArcGIS StoryMaps and ArcGIS Online preferred

### **Time commitment**

6 hrs/week for 30 weeks