Dear Faculty and Students,

My name is Molly Higgins, and I am the Student Committee Advisor Chair of the Missouri Milk, Food, and Environmental Health Association (MMFEHA). At MMFEHA we are looking at ways to further involve food science and public health students as we plan for next year’s Annual Education Conference (AEC) in April held in Springfield, MO at the Ramada Plaza Hotel & Oasis Convention Center. One new aspect of the 2016 conference is the addition of poster sessions to our exhibitor’s hall. I am currently in charge of organizing and recruiting students to present their research at the poster session. We feel as though this would be a great opportunity for students to give public presentations on topics related to food safety and public health because many of our attendees work in the food safety and public health sector. We would greatly appreciate it if you could forward information about the conference to your students and encourage those conducting research to participate in the poster session. Abstracts will be due January 22nd, 2016 to me by email, and students can contact me with any further questions.

We are also looking for student facilitators who may be interested in moderating one of the four sessions (Milk, Food, Environmental, and Vector) held at the conference. The MMFEHA AEC is a great place for networking with professionals in the Environmental Public Health field, both from industry and from government. Students majoring in related fields are encouraged to attend the AEC to learn more and do more in food safety and public health. Here is a link to the post-conference newsletter for the 2015 MMFEHA AEC:


Students attending the MMFEHA AEC will also have a tiny taste of what is to come later in 2016. The International Association of Food Protection (IAFP) will be hosting their annual conference in St. Louis, MO July 31-August 3, 2016. MMFEHA is the state affiliate of IAFP and we are very excited to have the opportunity to host this conference. Here is a quote from IAFP about their conference:

“Each year, the International Association for Food Protection hosts an Annual Meeting, providing attendees with information on current and emerging food safety issues, the latest science, innovative solutions to new and recurring problems, and the opportunity to network with thousands of food safety professionals from around the globe. Held in various locations throughout North America, this meeting has grown over the years to become the leading food safety conference worldwide.

The IAFP Annual Meeting is attended by more than 2,800 of the top industry, academic and governmental food safety professionals from six continents. This renowned event owes its reputation and success to the quantity, quality and diversity of each year’s program; the quality and relevance of exhibits sharing the latest in available technologies; leading experts speaking on a variety of timely topics; and special recognition of outstanding professionals and students for their contributions in the food safety field.”

We are currently looking for volunteers to help out with various aspects of the IAFP conference. This is another great chance for students to network and learn more about food safety and public health on a very large scale. Students attending the MMFEHA AEC will have the advantage of seeing some familiar faces at the IAFP AEC. Having the IAFP conference held in Missouri in 2016 is a huge opportunity that should not be missed by students wanting to get involved.

If you know of any students who may be interested in anything I have previously mentioned, feel free to send them my contact information:

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Sincerely,
Molly Higgins