As background, the inaugural group of 2014-2015 UC Global Food Initiative (GFI) Fellows met with UC President Napolitano in April 2015 and offered suggestions for increasing student engagement in the GFI, including:

- Creating a student engagement role at each campus for active GFI communication within each campus, and between campuses
- Arranging face-to-face early introductions of GFI Fellows to share ideas, set goals and develop collaborations that could be maintained throughout the academic year
- Increasing frequency of campus-based interactions for GFI Fellows
- Enlisting Blum Centers for GFI-based student activities and workshops
- Extending beyond traditional disciplines and broadening student conversations about food
- Collecting and sharing midterm project updates and providing a central resource to capture ongoing GFI Fellows’ work

In response, each campus is requested to appoint one of their GFI Fellows to support Global Food Initiative student engagement and communication efforts for the 2015-2016 academic year. The appointed student engagement campus representative serves as the GFI student engagement go-to person for their campus. This responsibility is in addition to the student’s GFI fellowship project, and offers an additional $500 towards the student’s GFI Fellowship award ($4,500 total).

Student engagement campus representatives will be invited to participate in leadership meetings of the Global Food Initiative where they will share their student voice, report out on student engagement activities, and connect with GFI working group leaders from all 10 campuses, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and the UC Office of the President. Meeting dates will be set and announced by the UC Office of the President.

Student engagement campus representatives will be responsible for communicating with GFI leadership and rallying GFI Fellows to:

1. Learn about and promote student opportunities in GFI projects and activities
2. Offer guidance on advancing campus-based student engagement in the GFI
3. Facilitate sharing of information and campus experiences between GFI Fellows
4. Provide student feedback and communicate campus needs and opportunities

A symposium is being planned for Fall 2015 to bring GFI Fellows together to share project ideas, develop collaborations and introduce student engagement campus representatives. There may be additional opportunities for collaboration and showcasing of GFI Fellows throughout the academic year.

For more information on this GFI campus fellowship role, please contact Deanna.Geddie@ucop.edu.