

**Bio for Saleia Afele-Fa'amuli, PhD**  
**National Program Leader**  
**National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)**  
**USDA**

Dr. Afele-Fa'amuli is approaching 12 years with NIFA providing national program leadership for 5 programs for Land Grant institutions in higher education in food and agricultural sciences and related sciences in research, education and extension mission areas. As a program leader, it is her responsibility to facilitate communication between NIFA and the university awardees on program administration and development including mandated post-award accountability reporting. Upon request for program information, she provides technical assistance and expertise to awardees, federal agency officials, specialists, colleagues, and the community. While leading panel reviews for assigned programs annually, she also identifies and collects new research-based information from all stakeholders for enhanced programs to meet the needs of the targeted primary audiences effectively. Other NIFA assignments include: Liaison contact to the University of Puerto Rico to review their annual Plans of Work and Accomplishment Reports for continued funding; also serves in the: Diversity Working Group, Mentoring Program, Obesity Prevention Task Force, Infrastructure and Capacity Task Force, and chair of the NIFA Fitness Committee. Immediately upon completion of her PhD from Cornell University in 1992, she worked as a Nutrition Program Leader and on to Dean/Director of the Land Grant Program, American Samoa Community College, prior to joining NIFA, USDA in December 2000.