

Shirel Ponnudurai

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EDUCATION

- Michigan State University**, Lansing, MI Aug 2024 - Present
Master of Science in Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics GPA: 4.00
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, Champaign, IL Aug 2021 – May 2024
Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Consumer Economics: Consumer Economics and Finance GPA: 4.00/4.00
- University Honors
 - Dean's list Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024
 - College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences Jonathan Baldwin Turner Scholar

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Lola Cremeans Tilly Scholarship recipient 2023-2024
- Mansperger Scholarship recipient 2022-2023
- Marshall Scott Agribusiness Scholarship recipient 2022-2023

EXPERIENCE

- Michigan State University, Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics**, Lansing, MI Aug 2024 – Present
Research Assistant
- Collaborated with peers to analyze soybean and dairy market trends and economic impacts related to dairy production
 - Prepared visuals to report and highlight key findings using Power BI and Microsoft Excel
- Centrec Consulting Group LLC**, Savoy, IL June 2023 – Present
Agricultural Consulting Intern
- Research and write articles on international soybean markets to recommend profitable opportunities for the U.S. soy industry
 - Utilize Microsoft Excel and Power BI to build models and conduct statistical analyses on agricultural data
 - Gather and apply data related to sustainable agriculture, animal nutrition, and commodity markets
- Soybean Innovation Lab**, Champaign, IL Oct 2022 – May 2023
Student Research Assistant
- Standardized and categorized up to 1300 rows of international plantation data using Microsoft Excel functions every week
 - Studied data collection protocols for African soybean plantations
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Libraries**, Champaign, IL Sept 2021 – May 2023
Student Assistant
- Provided efficient customer service and collaborated with patrons to troubleshoot miscellaneous technical issues
 - Operated library software to record patron activity and check out loanable technology
- ## LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES
- Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics**, Champaign, IL Jan 2023 – May 2023
ACE Student Ambassador
- Assisted the ACE department with planning large visitation events such as Explore ACES and Illini Days
 - Collaborated with other ACE ambassadors to prepare welcome packs for admitted students and answer questions about life on campus
- Vermiculture**, Champaign, IL May 2022 – May 2023
Field Operations Chair
- Led a team of 3 students in organizing the logistics of composting kit drive
 - Executed 2 to 3 workshops and kit drives throughout the semester and assisted participants regarding composting kit issues
- Illini-Life Christian Fellowship**, Champaign, IL Jan 2022 – May 2023
Urbana Small Group Leader
- Planned weekly bible studies with other leaders and facilitated discussion among a group of 10 to 20 students
 - Fostered community building and provided one-on-one peer support