

2009 Bradley University BEST Research Internship Program

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the BEST (Building Excellent Scientists for Tomorrow) Research Internship Program is to provide a foundation in scientific, mathematics, or engineering research. Internships are available for undergraduate students, high school students and K-12 educators interested in challenging and authentic mentored research experiences.

This program will:

- Provide a mentored research experience that is challenging and stimulating;
- Broaden the Intern's technical skills, interactions with individuals from the scientific, mathematics and engineering community, and educational and professional experience;
- Offer supporting information for the Intern's career development; and
- Provide awareness of the science and engineering employment opportunities here in Peoria.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Previous experience shows that interns' experiences are enhanced when they are provided opportunities to work in collaborative learning groups comprised of individuals at varying stages of professional development. Accordingly, interns will be assigned in small collaborative working groups (2 or 3 interns per group) of one undergraduate student and one or two other (high school student or K-12 educator interns). Undergraduate interns are eligible for up to 400 hours of paid internship; high school students and K-12 educators are eligible for up to 200 hours of paid internship. A small number of those hours (20-30) will be formal training in research safety, methodology and ethics, provided by BEST faculty. The remaining hours will be at the discretion of the research mentor, with approval by BEST program administrators.

MENTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Mentors are expected to provide a safe and intellectually rewarding research experience for interns. They should involve interns in the full spectrum of the scientific process, in as much as possible. Interns are not simply "free labor"; rather, they are expected to gain an appreciation for the process of scientific research, and are expected to collect data that address a testable hypothesis, and to participate in multiple phases of research (e.g., hypothesis formulation, literature review, experimental design, data collection, data analysis, hypothesis testing, preparation of results for presentation or publication). It is not expected nor required that each intern participate in all phases of research; rather, the goal is to expose each intern to the breadth of the research process to the extent possible. Mentors must be able to commit to overseeing interns during the period from June 8 – August 14, 2009. Mentors are not responsible for paying interns' stipends, and may be eligible for limited financial support to cover the cost of additional research supplies incurred as a result of mentoring BEST interns.

Applications received by March 15, 2009 will receive priority consideration. Electronic or FAXed applications are acceptable. Applications should be submitted to:

Bradley University BEST Research Internship Program
c/o Kelly McConnaughay
Department of Biology
Bradley University
1501 W. Bradley Ave.
Peoria, IL 61625
kdm@bradley.edu
FAX: 309-677-3558

Mentor Application
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I. MENTOR INFORMATION

NAME _____ PHONE _____

INSTITUTION _____ EMAIL _____

DEPARTMENT _____

FACULTY RANK/JOB TITLE _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

II. RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

Describe the area(s) of research, scholarship, or creative activities in which a program participant would take part.

General Description of Duties for Research Intern (if known at this time):