GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
The goal of the BEST (Building Excellent Scientists for Tomorrow) Research Internship Program is to provide a foundation in scientific research appropriate for high school students or undergraduates interested in pursuing a career in basic or applied sciences, including biology, biomedical sciences, environmental sciences, physical sciences, and engineering. The goals of the CREST program specifically are to provide high school students with experience in clinical research.

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, we strongly encourage applications from mentors whose research programs involve small collaborative working groups; whose research teams include one or more undergraduate student or other near-peer mentor; and who would be willing and able to incorporate two high school interns. The high school interns are expected to engage in 150 to 300 hours of internship. The undergraduate interns are expected to engage in 200-400 hours of 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, 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 10 – August 9, 2013. It is strongly preferred that there be an undergraduate or other near peer mentor available to work with the students. 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.

The BEST/CREST programs will in part be managed by Continuing Education this year. Continuing Education requires that a background check be performed on all mentors supervising participants under the age of 18. This is conducted by an external company and all information will be handled confidentially by Continuing Education. The application for this screening will be forwarded once specific mentors have been assigned to students.

Applications received by April 10, 2013 will receive priority consideration. Electronic or FAXed applications are acceptable. Applications should be submitted to:

Bradley University BEST Internship Program
Center for STEM Education Olin 3
Bradley University
1501 W. Bradley Ave.
Peoria, IL 61625

sstear@bradley.edu
FAX: 309-677-2999
Mentor Application  
2013 Bradley University BEST and CREST Research Internship Programs

I. MENTOR INFORMATION

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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):

List and describe the undergraduate student or near peer mentor(s) who will be working with the student:

The working definition of Clinical Research for the purposes of this application is:
Scientific investigation into mechanisms of disease, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, outcomes, or health services that are conducted with human subjects, materials of human origin, or human populations.

Our current funds WILL NOT support experiments that utilize animals or primary tissues derived from animals.

Does your research fit the criteria above for Clinical Research? If so how?