An Overview of NSF REU Site Program in Geosciences

March 20, 2014

Lisa Rom
Changes in NSF Education Programs

Driven mainly by White House and Congress:
- America Competes Act 2010
- PCAST – “Engage to Excel”
- NSTC “co–STEM”
- Pending – Frontiers in Innovation, Research, Science, and Technology (FIRST) Act (H.R. 4186)

NSF is attempting to realign education programs to reflect priorities in the co–STEM report
- Research on STEM education
- NSF focus on undergraduate/graduate
America Competes Act – 2010

- (1) at least half of the students participating in a [REU] program...shall be recruited from institutions of higher education where research opportunities in STEM are limited, including 2-year institutions;
- (6) student participants are tracked, for employment and continued matriculation in STEM fields, through receipt of the undergraduate degree and for at least 3 years thereafter.
Five national goals:
• 100,000 new K-12 STEM teachers
• Increase Youth experience with STEM prior to college
• Enhance STEM experience of undergraduate students in order to graduate one million additional students with degrees in STEM fields over the next 10 years.
• Increase # of STEM graduates who are UU/women
• Improve graduate education
What is happening at NSF now?

- Effort to re-organize NSF STEM education programs to focus on undergraduate and graduate programs
- Creation of Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) program
- GEO issued Dear Colleague Letters
  - Focus was on CC and minority recruitment
  - Several new REU Sites funded via this opportunity
- IDEAs Lab
- Development of 5 year NSF strategic plan
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Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)
In FY 2015, $75.13 million in funding is requested for the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Sites and Supplements program, a decrease of $100,000 below the FY 2014 Estimate of $75.23.

In FY2016 NSF–IUSE will incorporate NSF's direct investments in students through fellowships and scholarships, and investments in students' participation in research experiences.
AGS REU News

• REU Program is now run centrally

• Proposal evaluation includes reviewers with educational expertise

• New emphasis on recruitment strategies, career training and evaluation
EAR REU News

- All EAR–funded REU Sites must give students until March 15th or LATER to accept/decline their offers regardless of the application deadline.

- It is expected that proposed target pool of applicants be recruited.

- REU sites should contribute to the intellectual merit of REUs (not only the scientific contributions).
OCE REU News

• No Repeats Rule in effect, but exceptions are frequently approved; March 15th or LATER for student acceptance notice

• REU Supplements considered by OCE programs; Bio. Oce. Is only program with a deadline – Feb. 7th annually

• Recruitment continues to be an issue for men and minorities
Polar REU News

- Welcome REU supplements
- Encourage REU requests that are part of new proposals
- Each program considers REU supplement and Site requests separately
- PIs are encouraged to submit REU Site proposals even if they don’t involve field work
- Call your program officer prior to submitting any proposal!
Annual Reporting

- Please enter student’s name, home institution, class level and email address

- Encourage students to complete this information PRIOR to leaving Site!

- You must submit an annual report with just the student information so that emails are generated by FASTLANE to the students
Long-term Trends in GEO REU

Ethnicity of Participants

Number of African Americans  Number of Native Americans  Number of Hispanic/Latino(a)s
Number of Pacific Islanders  Number of Asians  Number of Caucasian

AGS

OCE

EAR

2012 Data
Long-term Trends in GEO REU

From NSF Intern Presentation by Gonzales, 2012
Long-term Trends in GEO REU

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Questions?

GEO REU Contacts:

- Anna Hallar – AGS   ahallar@nsf.gov
- Lina Patino – EAR   lpatino@nsf.gov
- Julie Palais – PLR  jpalais@nsf.gov
- Lisa Rom – OCE     elrom@nsf.gov