

GEO REU Workshop 2016

Working group: Recruiting and supporting students who are academically younger or from community colleges

10:30-11:30 am - Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016

Leaders: Marianne Smith, Deanna Erdner, Lesley Smith

This is from a small working group of workshop participants who discussed the topic and made notes on their discussion.

Challenges

- Some mentors have prejudice against academically junior students
- Who to select as mentors
- How to prepare students who have never taken a geo class
- Have students identify what skills they are bringing to the table. All students are in a different place.
- Students don't want project dumbed down for them. Don't change expectations!
- Delicate balance between challenging students, not dumbing it down, and finding a project at an appropriate level
- How do you prepare students with e.g. coding and maths?

Solutions and strategies

- Rutgers - "B to B" mixed half CC and half trad. undergraduates, aim to use it to get CC students ready to transfer
- Knowing your mentors makes a big difference. Sometimes a postdoc or grad student is a better choice than a PI.
- CC students are really invested in the experience. They are willing to work very hard and go the extra mile. *appreciation*!
- Having some basic knowledge of conducting research is sometimes important.
- Ask 3 - then ask me (Ask peers before mentors) Use mentors for critical questions rather than minor ones
- Pairing students can be successful.
 - 2 students at the same level but different disciplines
 - One academically junior student with more advanced student
 - Valuable for senior students to have prof. dev. in mentorship
 - Have former 2 year college students who had done an REU in the past to be a mentor to junior students
 - Near peer mentors
- Ask mentors for most important skill and let students know in advance that this is required
- Science speed dating...
- Providing mentoring for all mentors, whether undergrad or senior faculty
- Entering mentoring book by University of Wisconsin Madison

Resources

- [Entering Mentoring](#) book by University of Wisconsin Madison
- Slack as a collaboration tool
- Rubric! Marianne Smith will share

Ideas for potential collaborations

Marianne Smith is willing and eager to support the recruitment of CC students from her school