

# REU PI Meeting (virtual)

November 24, 2020

**Thanks to Ian Billick for his leadership and efforts to work with NSF to improve our REU program**

**Thanks to the members of the Leadership Council for working with NSF**

**Thanks to Joe Ayoob for coordinating the summer 2019 REU**

**Slack platform for communication – thanks to Liz Silva!**

**Erin Dolan – will be reporting on lessons learned from virtual REUs**

**Thanks to all who are attending this meeting and/or viewing the video recording**

**If you have additional questions after the meeting, contact me at [soconnor@nsf.gov](mailto:soconnor@nsf.gov)**

# Drastically lower # of students trained in 2020

	<b>Summer 2019</b>	<b>Summer 2020</b>	
<b>Number of programs</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>25</b>	Sites with <6 students were counted
<b>Number of student applications</b>	<b>30,449</b>	<b>6,325</b>	
<b>Ave # applications/Site</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>253</b>	
<b># Students trained</b>	<b>1,248</b>	<b>254</b>	
<b>Remained about the same:</b>			
<b>Average # of weeks</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>% URM</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>59%</b>	
<b>Gender (female)</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>72%</b>	

Most impacted – indoor lab bench type programs

# Goal for this meeting – plan for 2021 summer

- Be able to offer more REU Site programs this coming summer 2021. At this meeting, identify barriers to being able to offer a program
- Know what information is needed to make good decisions --whether on opening/canceling, or on accepting students (2019 vs 2020 applicants), or on housing/alternative, or on contingency planning – see next slide
- Anticipate changes in budget, whether increase or decrease. New internal guidance from NSF Policy office – **apply for supplement in last year of grant**
- Use No Cost Extension to use funds beyond the original period of grant. If you canceled 2019 program – apply for NCE during the last 12 months of your grant

# **FAQs on COVID-19 impact as it relates to REU**

- Find out what your institutional policy/practice is on testing/vaccines with respect to students on campus. These rules can be applied to REU students coming to campus.
- If needed, post your policy online so students know before they apply to your program
- When making a decision on students who were sent acceptances last summer – those students who have not graduated are eligible to join the REU. However, use your best judgement. Space is limited, and it would be good to allow the current cohort to have a decent chance of getting accepted. Additional capacity?
- Estimate of students who have graduated (thanks to all who responded):
  - 36 responses out of 127 REU Sites (28%)
  - 153 students will have graduated of those accepted in 2019 (28% of Sites)
  - we will not be able to support these students (~550 students or ~\$5.5 MIL)

# Discussion Points

- **Barriers to opening REU Sites during summer 2021**
  - **What are the barriers and ways to address them?**
  - **Is there interest in collaborating with other Sites? If so, how can this be done?**
- **Students accepted to 2019 REUs: Should Sites with additional capacity accept from other Sites?**
- **Do we need additional mentors? What about using NSF-funded Postdoc Fellows? Should we have a portal for matching students by projects and locality?**
- **Uncertainty – plan to operate a program. If the program cancels and you incurred expenses, the grant can cover them.**
- **Graduated students: What options do we have for those students who have graduated?**
  - **Use non-NSF funds?**
  - **Use unused balance in the Travel Grant?**
  - **Allow students to do research at other labs?**
- **Other ideas?**

NSF will continue to allow for flexibility. Let me know your plans so I can document in your file (in case of an audit).