

LC Open House Q&A on 12/3/20 @ 1 pm MST

Introduction of LC: Ian Billick, Britt Carlson, Liz Silva

Presentation of BIO-REU Pulse Check Survey: Liz Silva

- [Survey Results](#)

Recap of program at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory: Rosemary Smith

- Recruited local students and local mentors, in addition to traveling students
- Created very strict rules for students traveling to the lab regarding COVID-19 precautions.
- Panels, workshops, presentations were all virtual to connect on-site/off-site students.

This was a bonus as family, mentors, etc. were able to attend presentations.

- Gave the option for students to be fully online or travel to RMBL.
- Felt that the buy-in of the mentors was vital to the decision to run the program.
- Students & staff had to be extremely flexible. Every week was a new challenge.

Personal Introduction and recap of TECBio REU at the University of Pittsburgh: Joe Ayoob

- Tried to consider what the students would be going through and putting them first
- Students were very grateful that the program ran.
- Set up a common time for multiple site programs to have co-programming for students.
- Formulated most things in small groups-introductions, committees, teams
- Adjusted some expectations- team projects, rather than personal project.
- Also enjoyed being able to engage student support networks with virtual symposiums.
- Used VR to hold a poster session with student avatars. Plans to include mentors in the future. (Altspace VR)
- Had a social committee and met on Fridays, which had a special guest and played games.
- Recommended looking at 2021 resources on bioreu.org

Open Q&A

- **Patricia Stock:** We planned for 12 students initially but can't host groups larger than 10. Will there be flexibility to use the budget for other purposes (hosting PI support) or use money for summer 2022?

Sally O'Connor: Yes, just email me of your plans. You can use 2022 money in 2021 and then ask for a supplement in 2022 to fill the gaps.

- **Carlos C. Goller:** I'm concerned with offering the best program possible. What shared programming can we use as a group?

Ian Billick: This move to online programs is going to make it easier to share programming. Suggests posting on Slack for the types of programs you might benefit from and see what feedback you get.

- **Lichten Walner:** Do we have any flexibility to use the PI travel funding to help support mentors? NOT participant support costs, though?

Sally O'Connor: Yes, any amount you have outside of participant support costs can be re-budgeted to support costs. NSF will support your change. Just send me an email and it will get filed with your award.

- **Rosemary Smith:** How did programs run with part-time students? Were they 5 weeks and a half stipend? Is there a mechanism to run a part-time REU?

Ian Billick: Doesn't seem that anyone on this call had part time-students. The LC will be putting these types of questions out to the greater community.

- **Sally O'Connor:** The general message is that NSF continues to be flexible. We want to make sure that your plans are documented in your file in case you get audited.

Ian Billick: If your program gets audited it will not be Sally. It will be someone who has no idea how an REU program is ran. At our program, we file a change of scope for larger items and for smaller items I write a memo of the circumstances and then put it in a file. An audit might happen in 3-5 years and you won't remember the situation.

- **Carlos C. Goller:** Do we need to put in a change of scope to go completely virtual?

Sally O'Connor: If it's the same projects and you are just going virtual, you don't need a change of scope, just send an email.

- **Liz Silva:** We were audited a few months ago and recommend documenting everything. They will go through every line item. If you go virtual, definitely document any changes to the budget.

General Meeting Closed at 1:52 pm MST

Chat Transcript

13:15:06 From spstock: thank you nice summary. We will have to reduce the no. of students in our program. Originally planned for 12 but housing and our university policies will not allow groups bigger than 10 people. Do we have flexibility to roll over budget for other purposes (I,e, hosting PI support) or roll over for summer 2022?

13:22:41 From Ian Billick: Joe-- you are breaking up about every 15 seconds.

13:25:32 From Patricia Stock, Director and Professor ACBS, U. Arizona: thank you Sally, that is what I wanted to know

13:27:39 From rosemary smith: I noticed several sites had part time remote students. How does that work?

13:27:45 From alichtenwalnermacp: Do we have any flexibility to use the PI travel funding to help support mentors? NOT participant support costs, though?

13:31:44 From Carlos Goller: For example a shared virtual tour of a genome sequencing center with sign language interpreters or panels in biotech etc.

13:33:32 From Carlos Goller: virtual poster/talk development, sci comm come to mind

13:33:43 From Carlos Goller: Team development would be EXCELENT!

13:38:09 From Audrey Barker Plotkin, Harvard Forest: Joe, the VR poster session sounds amazing!

13:39:23 From Britt Carlson: Joe -- which software did you use for the VR poster session. I was looking at Gathertown (??)

13:39:39 From Ian Billick: bioreu.org

13:41:04 From Liz Silva (she/her) : Our graduate programs have been using Gather.town for retreats/conferences and they really like it

13:41:33 From Karen Cisek: Joe, Was the 2D version of the VR session successful for you? It didn't work well for me when I tried it. Our IT people told me that we would need gaming level computers to make it work well.

13:47:05 From alichtenwalnermacp : Really appreciate all the detailed info being uploaded on the BioREU site; will be helpful next summer!

13:48:35 From Jim Belthoff : Thank you everyone. We are considering moving forward at Boise State in Summer 2021, but there are a lot of moving parts.

13:49:52 From Liz Silva (she/her) : We were just audited a few months ago

13:52:09 From Audrey Barker Plotkin, Harvard Forest: Thank you!

13:52:15 From Patricia Stock, Director and Professor ACBS, U. Arizona: thank you all!

13:52:16 From Carlos Goller: Thank you for doing this!

13:52:20 From rosemary smith: Thanks!

13:52:25 From alichtenwalnermacp: Thanks!