

**Recruiting mentors for the
UAB Summer Science Research Institute Internships
for High School and Community College Students**

We have just received funding for the 2018 edition of the CORD Summer Science Research Internships for High School and Community College Students program. We are therefore, in the process of recruiting outstanding students and research laboratory sponsors, such as you, to mentor students for the 2018 program. Due to the large number of programs that recruit mentors for the summer, we are contacting potential mentors early to ensure that CORD Summer Interns will have a great summer learning experience.

2018 will be CORD's 21st annual Summer Science Institute Summer Research Internship program (over 415 students have had this opportunity). In the past 19 years, only 1 intern has not entered college after their senior year in high school, and among the graduates of the program, most have continued on to professional or graduate school. Among the 2013-2017 high school Interns (75% were minority students from Birmingham area schools and community colleges). About 40% of the Interns had ACT composite scores over 29, and the 2016 interns had an average GPA in high school of 4.0 and in community college of 3.75. All of the community college Interns have (or will in 2017) enter UAB in a STEM discipline. About half of last summer's high school interns are headed to UAB for their undergraduate training (mostly in Science and Technology and University Honors programs), while others are going to other competitive schools (e.g., Washington University, Hopkins, Stanford, Emory, Vanderbilt, etc.).

This year we will recruit about 15 top Birmingham City School 11th grade students and up to 20 area community colleges students from CORD's NSF Bridges program, *Blazing to Biomedical Careers* to participate. These latter students are all UAB bound in their third year of college, and like the high school students are top performers at their community colleges (average ACT~27). Nearly 85% of the community college interns have matriculated into a STEM undergraduate program at UAB and many of them are continuing their research as UAB undergrad students. Each student will be paid a stipend for their work in the Internship program, and at the end of the program CORD will host a research poster competition, with prizes including a UAB scholarship and the Ramon Dacheux Award. All Interns will be required to present.

The primary goal of this program is to prepare local high school and college students and local teachers to pursue careers in science, technology and engineering, and for the teachers, advance their ability to excite and teach students science, technology and engineering. Consequently, not only will this be a way for you to give back to the scientific community what your first scientific mentor gave to you, but it also builds grassroots appreciation and support for what UAB can do for the local community. In addition, this internship program is designed and integrated as the culminating laboratory experience of a comprehensive four-year summer high school student science research training program that now includes experiences in engineering, chemistry and physics as well as the traditional molecular biology/neurobiology focus. Thus, these students will be well versed in laboratory techniques, and consequently, they will be able to contribute to your laboratory's original scientific research.

CORD staff will monitor the progress of these students and assist you with any challenges that may arise. The program will start with CORD training from May 30-June 1 for high school students and May 14-25 for community college students. The Interns will then be in your laboratory from Monday-Friday from 8AM-5PM **beginning on Monday, June 4, 2018. The program will end with the SSI Closing Ceremony poster presentations on Friday, July 27, 2018.**

Our goal is to give these high school and community college students the highest caliber research experience that a world-class research facility like UAB can offer. This experience will help them successfully compete academically with students from any educational system in the country.

If you are willing to become part of the 2018 SSI mentor team, please fill out the form below and return it to me via e-mail at jmwyss@uab.edu or fax at 934-5158. Please contact me (934-5171) if you would like any additional information.

Please pass this on to any colleagues who might be interested in the program.

Thank you for working with our students and helping to empower them for careers in the biomedical sciences.



J. Michael Wyss, Director
Center for Community OutReach Development

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205-934-5198

Application to become a Summer Research Intern Mentor for 2018

_____ I am interested in mentoring a high school student intern for summer 2018.

_____ I am NOT able to mentor a high school student intern this summer, but I would like to in the future. Please keep me informed.

NAME OF FACULTY _____

DEPARTMENT _____

LOCATION OF OFFICE AND LAB _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Send your responses via e-mail at jmwyss@uab.edu or fax at 934-5158. Please contact me or the CORD Administrator Shirley S. Ginwright (sginwrig@uab.edu; 934-5171), if you would like any additional information.

Thank you for considering being a mentor for these outstanding students.