Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Sustainable Management and Beneficial Reuse of Residual Wastes and Byproducts

Well qualified undergraduate students are invited to apply for a summer research experience at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), San Luis Obispo sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The ten-week long program will be held from June 17 to August 23, 2014 for ten selected undergraduate students. A stipend of $4,800, up to $500 for travel, in addition to room and board at Cal Poly will be provided.

Ongoing fundamental research at Cal Poly involves waste management, pollution prevention, waste to energy conversion, and beneficial reuse of wastes and byproducts. The REU program engages students on research supported by the Global Waste Research Institute (gwri.calpoly.edu), an interdisciplinary organization at Cal Poly focused on promoting collaborative and cutting-edge research and educational activities. Institute goals include: advancing current practices in resource management by conducting research on and providing anticipatory solutions to the entire lifecycle of large quantities and wide varieties of wastes and byproducts. The GWRI fosters collaboration between the colleges of Engineering, Science & Math, Agriculture, and Business, where experts from complementary disciplines work together to develop innovative and sustainable solutions.

The REU program at Cal Poly engages undergraduates on research leading to the discovery of new knowledge, provides mentoring for a diverse research team, promotes graduate study as a future professional goal, and provides instructive and appealing learning components. As part of the research experience, the participants develop a research plan, carry out a research investigation, prepare progress reports using multiple technology-enriched approaches, present findings to a group of peers and research mentors through a variety of presentation modes, and reflect on achievements. In addition, specific periods are set aside for structured learning and professional development activities designed to provide the participants with skills, tools, and training essential for success in research.

Cal Poly is a nationally ranked (e.g., U.S. News and World Reports rankings) primarily undergraduate institution located on the coast between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The university has approximately 19,000 students and embraces a Learn-by-Doing educational philosophy.

Students interested in applying to the program should indicate such interest by e-mail as soon as possible to Dr. Gregg Fiegel (gfielgel@calpoly.edu), Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Cal Poly. Dr. Fiegel will send interested persons a formal application package directly. The review of applications will begin on March 1, 2014 and will continue until all available research positions are filled. Students who have earned their bachelor's degree prior to the start of the program are ineligible. Program participants must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or permanent residents of the United States, per NSF requirements.