

**Invitation for Faculty Proposals**  
**The Expanding Horizons through Research Program,**  
**A Research or Creative Experience for Undergraduates (RCEU)**  
**Summer 2015**

**Program Description**

The purpose of the University of Alabama in Huntsville RCEU program is:

- To support research and/or creative work experiences for undergraduate students in all fields of study.
- To foster cooperation between students and researchers in a research or creative endeavor, and to expose the student to academic scholarly work via active participation in a research, creative, or scholarly project.
- To assist in furthering UAH's research activities by helping to provide opportunities for new and ongoing areas of study and creative work.

Students undertake activities within a research or creative work project typically lasting for 10 to 12 weeks in the summer, under the direct supervision of a UAH full-time faculty member or researcher (including lecturers, full-time research staff with Doctoral level credentials and term faculty appointments). The work hours correspond to a full-time job (approx 32-40 hours per week), and the student receives a stipend of \$3,200. Housing will be available in University housing at the usual rates for summer occupancy. Meals will be available for purchase on campus. Students may use the stipend for meals and housing, but no additional funds will be available for meals or housing.

To participate in the program, students must be enrolled as a UAH undergraduate student for the either the summer or fall of 2015.

A non-exclusive list of possible activities includes laboratory experiments, musical compositions, field studies, clinical projects, engineering experiments and projects, theoretical work, human behavior studies, writing projects, and visual art projects.

At the end of the program, students are expected to present their work in one or more public forums and submit a written report. The mentor is expected to complete a survey and write a review of the student's performance and the educational benefit received by the student, to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of the program.

The program is funded through the UAH President's office, the Provost's office, the Vice President for Research office, the Alabama Space Grant Consortium and other sources as they become available. The Faculty Senate Finance and Resources Committee reviews RCEU proposals and makes individual awards. We anticipate that 25 – 30 proposals will be accepted, limited by the availability of funds. The committee strives to provide an equitable distribution of awards between colleges and departments.

**Proposal Process**

**The first step in the proposal process is the submission of proposals by faculty and researchers desiring to serve as a mentor for an undergraduate student research project. Submitted proposals will be posted at:**  
<https://sites.google.com/a/uah.edu/rceu-test-2015/home>.

**Students will then be invited to submit applications for specific proposals via the above webpage. Faculty submitting proposals will then rank students who have applied to research with proposing faculty.**

The schedule is as follows:

- **October 31, 11:59 pm – deadline for faculty proposals for summer 2015**
- **November 28, 11:59 pm – deadline for students to apply for faculty proposed research**
- **December 10 – Deadline for faculty ranking of student applicants**
- **January 30 – Deadline for notification of awards**

The proposals will be evaluated by Committee based on the following selection criteria, in descending order of importance:

Criterion:

1. Degree of benefit to the student

2. Quality of mentor supervision

For example:

What will the student get to do?  
What will the student learn?

What will be the extent of collaboration between the student and mentor?

With whom will the student meet and what will be the extent of educational interaction between the student and mentor?

What will be the frequency of interaction between the student and mentor?

How, and with what frequency, will the student receive feedback regarding the educational component of the program?

3. Quality of the student's contribution

In what way will the student's effort contribute to the project?

How much time will be devoted to learning instrumentation and technique versus actual experimentation or creative work?

Please be sure to address each of the criteria in the proposal. (Note: you do not necessarily have to answer all the clarifying example questions.)

### **Proposal Content**

The maximum length of the proposal is 2 pages. The proposal must be submitted by email to the contact listed below. Use the following headings in the following order:

Faculty or Research Mentor – The Mentor's name and complete contact information, including college or research center affiliation, phone number, email address and campus mailing address. This information will be available for interested students to seek information about research proposals.

Project Summary – An overview of the project. Be sure to explain how the student's work will fit into the project.

Student Duties – Make clear what the individual student will do during the work period. This section should show a clear benefit to the student such as using specialized equipment, learning new techniques, exposure to new environments above and beyond the normal classroom, coursework, or laboratory experience. Please give specific examples of these benefits. Describe any expected results and/or deliverables and when they are expected. If applicable, explain any deviation from the standard workload expectation of 10-12 weeks at 32-40 hours per week.

Mentor Supervision and Interaction – This section should explain the nature and frequency of supervision the student will receive, including your plan for where/how/when the student will be supervised, mentored, and evaluated. Please be specific in terms of both frequency and method of supervision/mentoring/evaluation. Indicate with whom the student will be working and reporting to during the work period.

### **Honors Thesis Applications**

The Committee will give priority consideration for up to two (2) Honors Theses that also meet the RCEU criteria. Thesis/RCEU proposals must meet the criteria for an Honors Thesis and meet the criteria noted above for RCEU proposals in order to receive this consideration. If a proposal meets the Honors Thesis criteria but is not equivalent in quality to other RCEU proposals, this priority consideration may be waived at the discretion of the committee. It is our hope that priority consideration will encourage honors students and their faculty mentors to submit RCEU-quality Honors proposals for this program. **The proposal must request this priority.** This priority consideration is not a guarantee of funding. Please contact the Honors Dean, Dr. William Wilkerson ([wilkerw@uah.edu](mailto:wilkerw@uah.edu)) for details regarding an honors thesis.

**Women and minority students will be encouraged to apply. Proposing faculty and researchers are requested to encourage female and minority student applicants.**

**Untenured assistant faculty members and faculty without external funding are encouraged to submit proposals.**

### **Contact:**

Proposals should be emailed to [RCEU@uah.edu](mailto:RCEU@uah.edu), by the end of day October 31. Any questions should be directed to Professor Charles Hickman at 256-824-6598, [Charles.Hickman@uah.edu](mailto:Charles.Hickman@uah.edu).