



GEMS Near Peer Mentor Announcement

Open Date: 1 November 2017

Closing Date: 28 February 2018

Work Location Site: U. S. Army Corp of Engineers
Engineer Research Development Center (ERDC)
Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC)
2902 Newmark Drive
Champaign, IL 61822

Period of summer internship: Work 2 weeks between the period: 12 - 25 June 2018.
The two weeks will be distributed as full time (40 hr. / wk.) during the Day Camp plus 40 hours of intermittent preparation time prior to the camp.

Openings: 2 Educational Stipend: Ranges between \$600.00 to \$851.00 (dependent upon education level)

TECHNICAL DISCIPLINES:

Chemistry, Biology, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Physics, Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or Mathematics with interest in environmental, chemical or sustainable systems engineering.

LEVEL OF EDUCATION EXPECTED:

Junior or Senior High School students with a strong interest of majoring in one of the above technical disciplines are strongly preferred. Previous wet laboratory safety training is desirable. Students with a STEM background and interest in student outreach may also be considered.

Description of Work Areas:

The Near-Peer intern will assist ERDC-CERL researchers with developing the Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science (GEMS) program camp curriculum utilizing a teaching module. Prior to the scheduled day camps, the Near-Peer will intermittently collaborate with the primary instructors. During the day camp, the Near-Peer will interact with middle school participants full time assisting and/or leading the task assignments to include laboratory experiments. Participation in this program offers the intern a hands-on experience with teaching inquiry and design modules.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please feel free to contact Ms. Stacey Summerlin, to direct any questions about this great opportunity to the Outreach Coordinator.

Office: Engineer Research and Development Center - Construction Engineering Research Laboratory
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Fax: (217) 373-4525
Email: stacey.l.summerlyn@usace.army.mil

HOW TO APPLY:

The GEMS office is working hard to make the application process quick and easy. We encourage all interested students to apply. The application form can be accessed on the Army Education Outreach Program (AEOP) website by clicking the following link (use link complex one) <http://www.usaeop.com/programs/stem-enrichment-activities/gems/> and click the Apply button on the top right. More information on reverse side of this document.

What is GEMS?

The Gains in Education of Mathematics and Sciences (GEMS) program promotes the education of regional youth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). GEMS is offered by the Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) and funded by the Department of Defense to encourage students to enter into STEM-related careers. The Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) provides summer programs under the GEMS umbrella. GEMS is also available at other locations throughout the United States of America.

What can a Day Camp participant expect from GEMS at CERL?

For the interested and enthusiastic middle school or high school student, GEMS at CERL will expose the student to a genuine, hands-on laboratory experience. GEMS may also help them in STEM-related courses at school. The programs offered at CERL are led by Researchers and "Near-Peer" mentors who develop, explain, and execute each activity module.

What is a "Near-Peer"?

Near-Peer mentors are high school seniors and college students and recent graduates from related STEM education majors. These mentors are closer in age to the GEMS participants than the traditional teacher and create a more relaxed atmosphere of learning. The responsibilities of a Near-Peer are to be role models to the students, promote high-level science and math classes, and act as expert resources concerning college life and career pathways. Near-Peers are selected for their technical experience and attitude. Their inclusion is integral in enhancing each and every GEMS student's interest and achievement.

What is the Near-Peer's work schedule?

The Near-Peer will work intermittently leading up to the GEMS I (June 12-25) Day Camp. They assist the primary instructors in preparing the activities/experiment plans. During the day camp, they will work full time assisting and/or guiding the camp participants in completing their tasks/assignments including laboratory experiments.

What is a teaching module?

Our teaching modules are interdisciplinary, inquiry-based, hands-on learning experiments that explore the various fields of STEM academia. We utilize real-world examples and merge theory with practice to cultivate a broad and well-rounded understanding within each student. We require that every teaching module be fun and engaging.

Where is the program located?

The program will be at the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, 2902 Newmark Drive, Champaign, IL. The modules will be taught in a laboratory or training room setting.

What are the dates and times that the program starts and ends?

During the Day Camp weeks; the Near-Peer participants arrive before 7:30 a.m. Each week day is split into a morning and an afternoon session with a few breaks throughout the day. The Day Camp breaks for lunch midday and require participants to bring a packed lunch. Dismissal is at 4:30pm.

When can I apply?

Application Window: Open until February 28, 2018

Notification of placement is sent out on March 31, 2018 by email.

No paper forms will be sent out unless special request is made.

How do I apply?

If the link on the front side doesn't work for you, you can also apply by accessing the Army Education Outreach Program (AEOP) website <http://www.usaeop.com> choose "GEMS (5th-12th)" Select "APPLY" on the right side of banner line. Next, select "The Champaign, IL GEMS application is now OPEN! link Next, select "Apply" button on the right side at the top or bottom of webpage. Under Applicant Information select "Near-Peer Mentor \" next to the "Applying As" Question. Note that your GEMS Program site location is: ERDC-CERL, Champaign. As part of the application, each student must upload two letters of recommendation and a school transcript. Or contact Army GEMS Help-Desk Email: aeopgems@nsta.org; Phone 1-800-807-9852