

Molecular Biology High School Mentorship Program

An NSF-funded program hosted by the Barkan laboratory, Institute of Molecular Biology,
University of Oregon

Program Overview

We are offering a program to bring local high school students to our laboratory at the University of Oregon to do small research projects in molecular biology. This program is offered in conjunction with research grants from the National Science Foundation. We have the capacity to sponsor eight students each summer. Students will spend twelve hours/week in the lab for four weeks during the month of July, and will work closely with researchers who have experience mentoring high school students.

Guidelines for Educator Nominations

We will prioritize underprivileged students who may have only limited access to educational opportunities outside of school, who may be the first generation to consider attending college, and for whom this experience could open doors that would otherwise remain shut. A hands-on experience in a research lab can be a turning-point for students who are considering various options for their future, and can help students gain access to the best undergraduate programs and to scholarship opportunities. We will also consider high-achieving students who don't meet these criteria.

A requirement for this program is completion of 1 year of high school Biology. Completion of 1 year of high school Chemistry is desirable.

We can accommodate no more than eight students each year (from the entire Eugene-Springfield area), so we must select students carefully. Please consider this when making a nomination.

Students will benefit the most from this program if:

- they have a strong interest in life sciences
- they have aptitude for quantitative and logical thinking
- they are curious, observant, and enjoy hypothesizing
- they are independent and/or flexible thinkers
- they are responsible in academic and social situations demonstrating respect for other people and property
- this experience could provide a stepping-stone to increase opportunities for them.

Please provide a short letter that indicates how long you have known the nominee and in what capacity. Briefly describe why you think this student would benefit from this program by addressing each of the points above. Please include your phone and email contact information.

Letters should be emailed to: Susan Belcher: sbelcher@uoregon.edu