Dear Colleague:

We are inviting members of the University community to participate as laboratory mentors for the 61st Annual University of Florida Student Science Training Program (UF SSTP), June 9 through July 27, 2019. Your continued commitment to this program has enabled more than 5,900 twelfth grade students to experience research first-hand at one of the top research universities in the country!

Students selected to participate in SSTP are at the top of their high school class, highly motivated, and college-bound. Most will enter science disciplines as a direct result of their UF SSTP experience. Alumni include UF faculty and other professionals and pre-professionals throughout the world. Enclosed are comments from program participants who had the opportunity to work with you.

We hope you will be willing to include one or more academically talented high school students in your research program for ~28 hours per week for seven weeks this summer. Students would be selected for you based on criteria you specify on the on-line Laboratory Mentor Sign-up Form (linked from our website www.cpet.ufl.edu) and on the student’s interests.

If you know of other faculty members, graduate students, or research staff who may be interested in mentoring a motivated student, tell them about the program and have them contact us for sign-up materials. Please direct inquiries to sstp@cpet.ufl.edu or visit our webpage, www.cpet.ufl.edu for a link to sign-up.

Our website, www.cpet.ufl.edu, has several pages devoted to UF SSTP. If you have questions or need any further information, call us at the CPET office. We look forward to collaborating with you this summer.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Koroly

Mary Jo Koroly, Ph.D.
Director
The University of Florida
Student Science Training Program (UF SSTP)

The 61st Annual UF SSTP is a seven-week residential research participation program. The participants are select high school upcoming seniors who are academically talented, have evidenced interest in and motivation toward science research, and have demonstrated the maturity to work in a research laboratory. The program is administered by the UF Center for Precollegiate Education and Training (UF CPET). For more information on mentoring a student, please contact the UF CPET Office at sstp@cpet.ufl.edu, 352-392-2310, or visit www.cpet.ufl.edu to complete the brief on-line Laboratory Mentor Sign-up Form.

SSTP Goals

- Provide a research learning experience.
- Expose students to the breadth of scientific research at UF.
- Develop students’ scientific writing skills and public speaking abilities as the students work with trained SSTP counselors and mentors.
- Provide opportunities for problem solving, collaborative work, and peer mentorships.
- Motivate students toward careers in science or scientific research.
- Support students’ academic and career goals.
- Introduce students to the university environment.
- Assist UF faculty with Broader Impact goals.

Lab Mentor Responsibility

- Engage your student in university-level research as a part of your team. At the discretion of the lab host, SSTP students may assist in on-going research, may be given a special short-term project to complete, or may be invited to develop a research questions based on lab goals and resources.
- Provide supervision in the laboratory by faculty, graduate student(s), and/or laboratory staff. Designate one staff member to be Youth Protection Trained by completing an FBI Live Scan background screening and brief on-line training module.
- Give lab-specific safety training. The SSTP will provide three hours of lab safety training though EHS. Complete the EHS Minors in the Lab Registration Form.
- Mentor your student in best lab practices, scientific inquiry, and research careers.
- Direct the student’s activities and development with respect to background research and lab procedures. Lab hosts may provide professional development by reviewing drafts of the student’s research papers.
- Assess student learning in this three-credit, dual enrollment experience.

SSTP Student Obligations

- Participate fully in all assigned program activities from June 9 – July 27, 2019.
- Work in laboratories during assigned times: Mondays – Thursdays 9:30 am – 5:00 pm and Fridays 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
- Follow all lab protocols, UF regulations, and program rules.
- Read all lab and program material. Ask questions.
- Be respectful, responsible, and display a high level of maturity at all times.
- Attend faculty lectures, seminars, field trips, and other scheduled program activities held outside of laboratory hours, including an evening, three-credit dual enrollment seminar course.
- Complete all program academic requirements including developing a literature search, presenting research at a mid-term talk and end of program talk, preparing a research poster, and submitting a research paper.
“I came away from SSTP with a newly intensified interest in science, deep set friendships, and a strengthened sense of independence. I can say without hesitation that SSTP was one of the most influential experiences in my life. I became a better scholar for having engaged in cutting edge research with top notch professors…”

“I believe my summer at SSTP did nothing short of change my life. I came into the program not entirely sure if I enjoyed science, or if I wanted to pursue it as a career. But I found working in a lab, and being part of a research team, in the forefront of science, an extremely exciting and enriching experience. It gave me a better understanding of the scientific process and the tremendous amount of work that goes into it…”

“Most importantly, my experience familiarized me with college life, taught me to prioritize and manage time, as well as allowed me to get to know my future college campus. It also gave me actual collegiate research experience and a relationship with a college professor.”

“It gave me a deeper, fuller understanding of science as a field and helped me develop my interest in a particular field. The lab experience helped to give me the confidence to jump into an upper level organic chemistry class my freshman year of college.”

“It heightened my interest in science as a career pursuit. I continue to look upon it as one of my most valuable experiences.”

“My participation in the program taught me how to work, talk, and interact with others in a scientific manner.”

“It was the first time I was a part of a team in a professional lab environment and the experience was a maturing one.”

“I am still a science major because it (SSTP) let me see what veterinarians go through.”

“It gave me direction in my academic career. I developed a love for genetics, and that became my first science class in college. It also gave me confidence in social settings and let me know there were other people out there who identified with me.”

“SSTP meant an energetic environment where similar people shared similar goals; and a valuable foundation in the research community. The breadth of scientific subject area allowed me to formulate new ideas and theories, and also challenged my previous thoughts. I feel confident my professional career will be more dynamic and fulfilling, due to the scientific and personal experiences I gained during my research at SSTP.”