Interdisciplinary Watershed Research Experiences for Undergraduates

23 May to 15 July, 2005

Sponsored by
The National Science Foundation, Plattsburgh State University of New York and William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute

The Program

The Center for Earth and Environmental Science at Plattsburgh State University, the W. H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute, and the National Science Foundation will provide an eight-week summer research experience for highly motivated undergraduate students with broad academic training in the natural sciences and multifaceted interests in ecosystem research. Our objective is to promote the professional development of undergraduate students through their participation in ongoing research of natural and managed fluvial and riparian ecosystems in the Little Chazy River watershed in northeastern New York. The research program seeks to establish the spatial distribution of ecosystem types and assess how the physical infrastructure of the watershed affects response variables such as stream discharge, water quality and especially the structure and composition of biotic systems. Participants will work closely with the program’s faculty mentors on research projects ranging from surface and ground water hydrogeology to nutrient biogeochemistry, primary productivity, and terrestrial plant ecology. All students will have the opportunity to participate in field trips, seminars and workshops related to watershed management with professionals from private and governmental agencies.

NSF Summer Research Fellowships

Twelve NSF-REU Research Fellowships will be available on a competitive basis. Fellowships include a $3,200 stipend and waiver of lodging costs for a total award of $3,800. All participants are eligible to receive seven PSU credits for the program at in-state tuition rates ($181/cr.), a savings of more than $1,700 for out-of-state residents.

Eligibility

Applicants must be matriculated, junior or senior-level undergraduates majoring in a natural science or engineering program at a four-year institution or have completed an AA or AS degree at a two-year college. A full-year sequence in geology, chemistry, and/or biology and familiarity with spreadsheets or databases is recommended. Applicants should have a B average or better in their major. Persons with special needs should contact the project director before the program begins. We encourage applications from women and minorities.

Location

Plattsburgh State University is located in the Champlain Valley of northeastern New York. The valley is bordered by the Adirondack Mountains to the west and south and the Green Mountains of Vermont to the east. The St. Lawrence Lowland and the city of Montreal, P.Q. lie to the north.

Research Facilities

Participants will have full access to the research, library and computer facilities at Plattsburgh State University, including the state-of-the-art biogeochemistry laboratories of the Lake Champlain Research Institute. Hydrological and meteorological conditions in the watershed are monitored at the PSU-Miner Institute sponsored Ecosystem Studies Field Laboratory, the Northeast Regional Climate Center weather station at Miner Institute and a U.S. Geological Survey stream gage near the mouth of the Little Chazy River. The Miner Institute research facilities include a computer laboratory and chemistry laboratories for analyses of soil, water and plant samples.

Information

Application forms and program information may be obtained from the Program Coordinators at the addresses below or you may download the REU 2005 Application Form from the program web site:

http://faculty.plattsburgh.edu/david.franzi/PSUR/PSURindex.htm

The application deadline is 28 March, 2005. Notification of acceptance will be made on or before 15 April, 2005.

Address Inquiries to:

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