

## **Call for Applications: 2012 National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program in BioNetworks at Rice University**

**Grantor:** Rice University

**Closes:** 2/10/2012

**Maximum:** \$4,800.00

Call for Applications: 2012 National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program in BioNetworks at Rice University

Application Deadline: February 10, 2012

Actual Program Dates: May 30 – August 3, 2012

NSF REU Summer Research Experience in Multi-Scale Biomolecular Networks (BioNetworks)

This Institute hosts the NSF REU-funded summer undergraduate internship in BioNetworks. The goal of this program is to provide students first hand experience with cutting-edge interdisciplinary research that is needed to predict biological functions sufficiently to reprogram cells to avoid diseases or to perform new tasks. The program dates for 2012 are 5/30/12-8/3/12. The deadline for all required application materials to be received is February 10th, 2012.

This award, made to Rice University by the NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences, will provide research training for 10 weeks for 30 students for summers 2010-2012. The focus of this NSF REU program is biological networks, complex interactions among biomolecules that give rise to the diverse biological phenotypes observed in nature.

In this summer REU, students will work on research projects under faculty mentors that draw from a range of approaches (classical biochemical and genetic to non-trivial theoretical models that require computation) to study naturally-occurring genetic networks, artificial genetic and metabolic networks, and biomolecular structure, function, and evolution.

This program will also provide: a creative opportunity for students to develop innovative biotechnological ideas; leadership, mentorship and social retreats; special seminars and career development workshops; stipend and travel support; on-campus housing; a capstone research poster symposium; and an ethics and responsible conduct of research discussion seminar.

Students will be recruited nationwide, with particular emphasis on recruiting women and under-represented minorities, and selection of students will be done based on the faculty steering committee's evaluation of each applicant's transcript and recommendation letters.

Rice's Institute of Biosciences and Bioengineering (IBB) administers this NSF REU Program and maintains a database of all the alumni for this program with tracking information on their career progression. Each year, IBB publishes a "Class

Notes” newsletter of the NSF REU alumni and features news on their current academic or professional status and accomplishments. Assessment of this program is done via pre- and post-questionnaires as well by using the NSF’s common assessment tool. More information on this program can be obtained by contacting Dr. Joff Silberg or Dr. George Bennett (Principal Investigators).

Any student with a science and/or engineering background who will be a university undergraduate during the time of their internship may apply. Applicants must have graduated high school and be enrolled fulltime in a college or university, and must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

No experience is required. The program is designed to introduce students who are interested in science and engineering to the research lab. Much focus will be given towards learning how to do laboratory research.

Applications are done online. Materials that will need to be sent via email include a resume, and two letters of recommendation (personal statements are NOT required). Official transcripts are required and should be sent directly from your institution to: NSF REU Summer Internship in BioNetworks, Rice University, IBB, MS-144, 6100 Main St., Houston, TX 77005.

Students are housed on campus (2-4 students per suite) and the program covers the cost of housing.

Stipend: \$4,300

Students will be allowed up to \$500 for travel expenses incurred from a one-time trip to and from the Rice campus.

**Link:** <https://ibb.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=563>