Information Session

The National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates

Fall 2016
The National Science Foundation

“Foundation for Innovation” 4 min video.
What is the NSF?

- **Federal agency that funds basic research (budget $7.5bn).**

- **Researchers apply for grants to support their projects, including support for student researchers.**

- **THE major source of funding in many fields, such as Computer Science.**
Research Experience for Undergraduates:

• REU site: group of ~10 undergrads who work in a research program of the host institution.

• Each student associated to one project to work closely with a faculty and other researchers.

• Students are granted stipends. Sometimes housing and travel.

• Must be citizen or permanent resident.

• Must apply to go!
What projects and where?

**REU sites:**

- All over USA – paid research experiences.
- Many topics – digital forensics, data mining, robotics, wireless sensors, …

What projects and where?

A few examples:

Delaware: [https://youtu.be/ENZgQcq8AYQ](https://youtu.be/ENZgQcq8AYQ)

Kansas: [https://youtu.be/Q7jbyxwSjW0](https://youtu.be/Q7jbyxwSjW0)

Syracuse: [https://youtu.be/jtKSG2dNSBA](https://youtu.be/jtKSG2dNSBA)
NSF-REU impact on YOU

bumps your CV up ...a lot!!!

either as a research assistant,

also for industry.
NSF-REU impact on YOU

geta recommendation from someone outside Pace,

and publish a(nother) paper.
NSF-REU impact on YOU

2006 AMS Survey of REU Graduates (F. Connolly and J. A. Gallian)

Survey consisting of 30 questions about REU experience sent to 444 students, 262 responded:

• Valuable: 84 %, somewhat valuable:15.78%, not valuable: 0.22%.

• 82% entered graduate school, of these, 78% said REU was a factor in their decision.

• 18% did not go to graduate school, of these, 32% said REU was a factor in their decision.
When?

Crucial for rising seniors!
last chance before graduation

Notice, in Fall 2017:
• you’ll apply for grad school
• or you will interview for jobs.
When?

Also if you are not a junior!

- **sophomores**: you may get it (more time to publish), but even if you don’t, at least you will learn how to improve your skills for the next round.

- **seniors**: even if you already have after-graduation plans, you can have a last-summer research experience before diving into your new endeavors.
So, NOW!

Steps:

1. Search early (NOW) the REU sites
2. Apply on time (deadlines around Jan-Feb).
3. Apply to all that “qualify”, that is
   • a project that fulfills your interests,
   • you have the skills needed.
4. Be thorough:
   • contact your potential mentor.
   • get strong letters or recommendation.
   • prepare comprehensive but relevant resume.
   • prepare the application carefully.
5. Ask for help!
Questions?