

Subject: STEP-UP Summer Research Program

Greetings,

The American Indian Research and Education Center (AIREC) is one of four coordinating centers funded by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease (NIDDK), Short- Term Research Experience Program for Underrepresented Persons (STEP-UP). Our goal is to recruit **11th & 12th High School** American Indian/Alaska Native students and research mentors, assist with the mentor coordination, and be the summer point of contact during the research experience and during the August symposium in Bethesda for our American Indian/Alaska Native students. Students will receive a summer research stipend.

The High School STEP-UP provides hands-on summer research experience for students interested in exploring research careers in the biomedical, behavioral, clinical and social sciences. The program provides exposure to the core NIDDK mission areas of diabetes, endocrinology and metabolic diseases; digestive diseases and nutrition; kidney, urologic and hematologic diseases.

The program will consist of 8 weeks in the summer where the students will identify their own questions and learn concepts that guide a scientific investigation. Students will develop and implement a course of action to carry out the procedures of their investigation; develop investigation instruments; gather and record data through observation and instrumentation to arrive at appropriate conclusions; and finally, communicate their findings. Please know that this is all done under the guidance of their mentor.

I have attached a letter which details the program instructions and requirements. Please forward this information to any students, parents, and potential mentors you feel may be interested. If you have any questions please feel free to contact our STEP-UP Program Coordinator, Ms. DeeJay Chino either by phone 702-895-4003 or via email chinoe@unlv.nevada.edu.

W aewaenon (Thank You)

Carolee Dodge Francis, Ed.D.
Assistant Professor & Executive Director
American Indian Research and Education Center
University of Nevada Las Vegas
School of Community Health Sciences
4505 Maryland Parkway
Box 453063
Las Vegas, NV 89154-3063

Phone: 702-895-5586

Fax: 702-895-0569

PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

carolee.dodgefrancis@unlv.edu



Dear High School Counselor, Teacher or Administrator, Parent(s) and Mentors:

The American Indian Research and Education Center (AIREC)/University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) under the School of Community Health Sciences is a Coordinating Center with the Short-Term Research Experience Program for Underrepresented Persons (STEP-UP). AIREC will be involved with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease (NIDDK), STEP-UP program for the next five years. The project aims to be expose American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) current year junior and senior high school students to the science of diabetes, endocrinology, metabolism, nutrition, and obesity.

The long-term objective is to develop a sustainable research education program for AI/AN high school students that provide hands on experience with biomedical, behavioral and clinical research, prevention and outreach targeting health disparities research in diabetes, endocrinology, metabolism, nutrition and obesity.

The 8 week program provides students with real experiences including opportunities to:

- Learn what biomedical research entails by being actively involved a project.
- Learn laboratory and research protocols.
- Learn how to develop a hypothesis
- Train with faculty and staff in a laboratory setting, or research setting.
- Prepare and present research findings at the annual NIDDK research symposium at the NIH in Bethesda Maryland in August 2014.

Program Highlights

- 8 to 10 weeks of full-time research experience with flexible starting dates.
- Summer research stipend.
- All-paid travel expenses to the Annual High School STEP-UP Research Symposium held on NIH's Main Campus in Bethesda, Maryland (August 2014).
- Students are encouraged to choose a research institute and/or mentor near their hometown or within commuting distance of their residence. Students are not required to relocate in order to conduct their summer research.

Please read the <https://stepup.niddk.nih.gov/hs.aspx> before starting the application. Applications will be accepted online beginning **11/15/2013**. All online applications and

supporting materials must be submitted by **2/15/2014**. Please know that you can save and go back to your online application once you have created a log in account.

Students applying to the High School STEP-UP must:

- Complete and successfully submit online application.
- Complete and successfully submit a Personal Statement with no more than 600 words.
- Contact two Academic References with instructions on how to submit Online Letters of Recommendation. Two complete Letters of Recommendation must be received on or before February 15, 2013 for program consideration.
- Order an official academic transcript which reflects all earned credits and grades through December 2012 (most recent). Transcripts must be postmarked by **2/15/2014** and mailed to:

**High School STEP-UP
11 Democracy Plaza Blvd., Room 904
Bethesda, MD 20892**

For questions or comments please feel free to contact:

Ms. DeeJay Chino, MPA

Program Coordinator
American Indian Research & Education Center
University of Nevada Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Parkway Box 3064
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-3064
(702) 895-4003
Email: chinoe@unlv.nevada.edu