



Breakout Session 2

REU Student Success Onsite

CISE REU PI Meeting 2023, Austin, Texas – April 2023

Thursday, April 20, 2023
10:30am-11:30am in Lantana B

Facilitators



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Best Practices for:

- Mentor management and logistics
- High impact first week activities
- Getting ready for research
- Ensuring continued research engagement including dissemination

Getting ready for research

- Before it starts - not allowed to give work yet, let's not give students additional work, legal aspects to consider for unpaid work
- Perhaps not even choose project until student arrives
- Do not want to reinforce their imposter syndrome
- How to hit ground running?
 - Early meetings with students to learn interests, pair with mentors, think about projects
 - Let students choose during application process
 - Do compliance or other training in advance if they have time
 - Brush up on or learn certain technical skills
 - First week training activities
 - Make expectations clear - do not expect full understanding yet
 - emphasize mindset

High impact first week activities

- Give paper can't immediately understand, but then break down how to read
 - (see Alvarado-UCSD resources on this)
- Seminars with other REUs, on general research process and skills
- Weekly “course” on research skills
- Make sure all logistics are handled (including food, parking, ids, access to gym)
- Research journey talks by faculty mentors
- Bonding, social activities
 - Escape rooms, nearby city outings, karaoke
- Hackathon
- Campus Tour
- Mindset training, productive struggle

Mentor management and logistics

- Pair up the students, have them work in teams
- Pair the mentors into teams (helps when faculty are gone)
- Team organization with PI/Co-PI being on teams, meet 2X weekly
- Grad student office hours every day
- Design/choose projects carefully - perhaps faculty submit abstracts, grad students help design, participant submit memo
- Mentor training
 - Session before summer, discussion
 - Training graduate students as well
- Have staff member outside of faculty, someone safe to talk to
- Deal with mentor mindset, consider as service not just research

Ensuring continued research engagement including dissemination

- Students aren't required to publish
- Students get independent study credit at their home institution for continued work
- Discussion on why dissemination is important, publication process
- Working as teams helps nurture publication
- Kinds of milestones: interim technical report, final report, poster sessions, achievement reports
- Encourage writing as part of the research process - regular deliverables
- **Idea: Regional REU poster symposia, provide travel funds to students**
- **Idea: National archive of posters**
- Conferences: ABRCMS, SACNAS, Tapia
- Keep them connected afterwards - text chain, LinkedIn alumni group