



NGRREC Summer Research Program Prepares Next Generation Of Wetland Scientists

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GODFREY – The National Great Rivers Research and Education (NGRRECsm) is accepting applications for a summer program aimed at giving undergraduates the opportunity to conduct real-life field research in area wetlands.

The Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program, themed “Wetland Science in a Modern World,” runs 10 weeks and is full-time. The internship program is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

“We are very excited to receive this NSF award. It points to the quality of research undertaken at NGRREC’s state-of-the-art field station, and our commitment to education,” said NGRREC Research Scientist and Program Coordinator Anthony Dell. “It also highlights the unique commitment of Lewis and Clark Community College to undergraduate research. This summer program will provide a unique opportunity for students from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in research to gain experience in the science of wetlands, including L&C students.”

Paired with faculty mentors, eight REU students will be trained each summer in multiple facets of field- and lab-based research. The program focuses on using modern technological and theoretical developments in wetland science. Students will be assigned to one of the research laboratories at NGRREC, under the mentorship of scientists from NGRREC and local institutions, including SIUE and SLU.

“Wetlands are among the most important ecosystems on the planet, providing numerous benefits including habitat for wildlife, mitigation of flood events, and natural reduction of pollutants in freshwater, said NGRREC Large River Ecologist and Co-Program Coordinator Jason Knouft. “We’re excited to have the opportunity to train the next generation of scientists in skills that will allow them to contribute to the sustainability and conservation of these resources.”

“We are extremely proud to offer this program, which expands our summer research opportunities for undergraduates,” said NGRREC Director of Environmental Education Sarah Fisher. “REU grants are only awarded to high-level research institutions, and not many of them are two-year institutions, and it is an honor for NGRREC to be selected.”

Fisher adds that L&C is only the second community college in Illinois to receive an REU grant.

The deadline to apply is March 14. Applicants must be current undergraduates who will not graduate before August 2021.

All information and the application can be found at www.ngrrrec.org/reu. General inquiries on NGRREC internships can be sent to NGRRECIntern@lc.edu.

Contact Fisher at saafisher@lc.edu, Dell at adell@lc.edu or Knouft at jason.knouft@slu.edu for additional information.

To learn more about these educational offerings and more at NGRREC, visit www.ngrrec.org/Education or follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NGRREC.