Dear Potential Mentor,

You are invited to participate in the mentorship program at The Governor’s School for Science and Technology. The Governor’s School is located in Hampton, Virginia. Our school is a magnet gifted high school, which serves students from seven area school districts. Students enroll in one of three strands: engineering/physics, computational sciences, or biological sciences. The senior year mentorship program provides the opportunity for The Governor’s School students to engage in a research experience with an off-campus volunteer mentor during the academic year. It is an opportunity to engage students in hands-on research, problem or project-based experiential learning with research scholars and professionals at universities, medical facilities, companies, and nonprofit agencies in the Hampton Roads area.

Mentorships begin in September/October and end in April. Students are required to participate in mentorship a minimum of three hours a week and to provide transportation to the mentor’s site. Mentorships may be on-site, virtual or hybrid. Students maintain a scientific notebook with a timecard to log their hours. Students are enrolled in the Senior Honors & Mentorship course.

The role of the research instructor is to provide a curriculum designed to integrate soft skills in the context of the research environment to maximize professional growth. The instructor will assess student performance via oral communications such as the proposal presentation and the spring symposium presentation. Written communications will include proposal writing, the literature review, and the research paper.

Mentors will be asked to evaluate their students each quarter using an electronic rubric provided by the research instructor. This evaluation is designed to take 5-10 minutes to complete. In addition, mentors are asked to review student written assignments for accuracy of content.

Each student has prepared a cover letter and resume’ to be reviewed by potential mentors. Interviews are encouraged to ensure a good match.

The Governor’s School Website: <https://nhrec.org/gsst/>

Please contact me with any questions. Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Vobrak

Senior Research Instructor & Mentorship Coordinator

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