TO: GEA members and Interested Faculty
FROM: Kathy Dixon Co-Director of SROP, Director of AGEP, The Graduate School
Susan Mendrysa, Co-Director of SROP, Associate Professor of Basic Medical Sciences
Basic Medical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine

DATE: December 20, 2016
RE: 2017 Summer Research Opportunity Program Faculty Mentors

We are currently receiving applications for the 2017 Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP). This eight-week program is aimed at encouraging talented undergraduate students from social and economic backgrounds that are underrepresented in research careers to pursue graduate education. This endeavor is supported by a partnership between the Graduate School, the academic colleges/schools, Center for Cancer Research and several federally supported programs on campus, including the Alliance for Graduate Education and Professoriate. On average we host approximately 30 students with faculty mentors from 15+ departments in most of our colleges. The cost to a college/school/department or faculty member is $4500. The Graduate School matches the amount to cover the remaining cost of the program. Most colleges/departments have a cost sharing arrangement with interested faculty who pick up some or all of the $4500 unit cost. Please confirm with your unit how the financial arrangements are divided.

During the SROP program students gain invaluable research experience working 40 hours a week in the labs. Along with the research experience, students receive the opportunity to develop their presentation skills by presenting their research at the end of the eight weeks in both an oral and poster presentation. In addition, students receive round trip airfare, housing costs, a summer stipend, and professional development workshops.

Faculty members gain an opportunity to mentor a potential graduate student before admission, work with talented undergraduate students that have already shown an interest in Purdue and graduate work, gain additional summer assistance with research goals and provide mentoring opportunities for graduate students and postdocs in your laboratory. With the growing use of computer-based analyses, an increasing number of SROP students continue to work on their summer projects once they return to their home institutions. When choosing a research project for an SROP student, we ask you to consider whether there are ways in which the student could continue to engage in the project after SROP ends in July and thus extend their contribution to the success of the project and sense of affiliation with Purdue.

In preparation for the 2017 SROP we would like to have a list of faculty interested in working with a student on a research project for the summer. Faculty mentors will be provided with $500.00 for S&E expenses for the student project. Program dates for 2017 are June 4th – July 29th.

Program expectations for SROP mentors include:
- Attend the Welcome and Orientation for Mentors and Students
- Incorporate the student into the mentor’s research program by providing a focused research project
- Meet with the student at regular intervals to monitor progress and discuss career goals
- Assist student with preparing abstract, poster, and oral presentations
- Attend final research symposium and banquet to recognize student

Additional details of the SROP are located on our website at: http://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/diversity/srop/index.html

If you are interested in mentoring an SROP student, please complete the accompanying Faculty Research Mentor Form and forward to Susan Mendrysa at mendrysa@purdue.edu. We will soon begin accepting students based on their research interests and alignment with faculty research mentor needs.

Thank you for your interest.

Kathy Dixon, Ph.D.
Susan Mendrysa, Ph.D.
Faculty Name:______________________________________________

Position:__________________________________________________

Department:________________________________________________

College:____________________________________________________

Email:______________________________________________________

Research Project
Title:_______________________________________________________

Research Project Description (please provide a brief overview of a potential project):

Undergraduate role (e.g. field sample collection, perform genetic screen in zebrafish, prepare tissue mimetics):______________________________________________________________

Undergraduate minimum qualification: (e.g. course in genetics, computer programming experience with Python):__________________________________________________________