Environmental Research Experiences at the University of Idaho for Students from Groups Underrepresented in Science and Engineering

June 11 – August 3, 2001

Nine faculty members from nearly as many disciplines, all of them members of the University of Idaho’s multidisciplinary, degree-granting Environmental Science Program, will provide 10 undergraduates with a challenging 8-week summer experience conducting environmental research. REU students will choose from a diverse “menu” of research projects including phyto- and bioremediation, supercritical fluid extraction of mixed waste, biologically engineered treatment systems, and watershed restoration. Students will be fully integrated into the productive research groups of their faculty mentors, which are primarily funded by federal and state agencies.

At the same time, students will develop collegial relationships as an REU group by participating in scholarly and recreational activities, such as weekly research forums, lunches with professional and academic role models, evening dinner seminars, workshops on environmental ethics, and project-oriented weekend field trips led by faculty mentors. A combination of the research specialty and the avocations/experiences of the mentors will help provide “right brain/left brain” stimulation, thus strengthening science and engineering with real-world experiences.

REU students will receive a stipend of $3,200 for eight weeks of full-time research, as well as campus-wide meal tickets and comfortable suites in the recently remodeled McConnell Residence, up to $500 reimbursement for travel expenses to and from UI, and access to all UI recreational facilities and student services. In addition, participants will be granted a tuition waiver of $480 if they wish to receive three internship credits that should easily transfer to their home institutions. Upon successful completion of research projects, UI will also provide $500 support for students to present their research results at a national professional meeting.

This program will emphasize recruiting of Native American and Hispanic students, as well as other undergraduates who are underrepresented in the sciences and engineering, yet all qualified students are eligible. Upcoming juniors and seniors will be considered from a variety of science and engineering disciplines, including chemistry, biology, natural resources, soil science, geology, and other environmental science and engineering programs.

More information about this program, including summer research options and application forms, can be downloaded at www.uro.uidaho.edu/reu/. Notify Jena Gram (envs@uidaho.edu) of your intent to apply and mail completed applications to: Environmental Science Program, University of Idaho, PO Box 443006, Moscow, ID 83844-3006, (208) 885-6113. Applications must be received on or before Friday, April 13, 2001. Students will be notified of acceptance before the end of April.

If you have questions about this REU program, please contact the project coordinator, Rick Schumaker, at rschumak@uidaho.edu or (208) 885-5357.