

Tennessee NSF EPSCoR

Research Experiences for Undergraduates 2011

Tennessee Solar Conversion and Storage Using Outreach, Research & Education (TN-SCORE)

General Information

Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) with the Tennessee Solar Conversion using Outreach, Research and Education EPSCoR National Science Foundation Grant.

TN-SCORE is alternative energy research grant involving nine universities across Tennessee. The three research thrusts are:

- **Thrust 1** Advanced Solar Conversion and Innovation
- **Thrust 2** Components and Devices for Energy Storage and Conversion
- **Thrust 3** Nanostructures for Enhancing Energy Efficiency

As part of the grant, there are competitive opportunities for undergraduates to work in research groups during the summer.

The summer research experience is an 8-10 week program depending on the institution placed. Students will receive a \$3200 stipend, housing, meals and supplies. A travel stipend will be included for the TN-SCORE annual conference. Starting dates for the program are tentatively set for late May- early June but are determined by the availability of the dormitories and may vary by campus. Please check the TN-SCORE website for updates.

Student Application Requirements

- Be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student in college or university in Tennessee (4 year or community college)
- Preference in applicant selection will be given to students who are underrepresented in STEM, to Tennessee residents and to those who have career and educational goals that involve alternative energy.

Application Details

The absolute deadline is April 22, 2011, however applications will be reviewed as received with rolling awards decisions. Applications should be emailed to jfranco3@tennessee.edu. Included should be:

1. Application Form
2. Copy of Unofficial College Transcripts (email)
3. A brief 1-2 page statement outlining how the summer research experience will strengthen and encourage the student's pursuit of a graduate degree or career development that includes research components in STEM areas.

4. A letter of commitment (2 page maximum) sent independently (email) by a faculty member at the student's home institution. The letter should include:
 - In what capacity does the faculty member know the student
 - The student's overall classroom performance
 - The student's potential for graduate study and research
 - The student's research experience
 - The level of undergraduate research in the student's home department
 - The potential benefit to the student of involvement in the TN-SCORE undergraduate research program.

The faculty member must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member at university located in Tennessee.

Selection Process

Applications will undergo careful review by a panel of TN-SCORE administrators and faculty researchers based on the following:

- Scholarship: student grades, activities, and other performance indicators that suggest the student will have success in program
- Research activity: relevance of proposed research to alternative energy issues and TN-SCORE program objectives
- Faculty support: level of commitment from faculty member and consistency with their ongoing research activities

Requirements of Participation

In addition to performing the research on the project, all award beneficiaries are required to:

- Submit a poster and two page paper on the research findings at the end of the summer
- Present their research at the annual TN-SCORE Conference and TSI/TVA Solar Conference

Final awards will be announced on April 29th. Any questions and faculty letters should be directed to:

Joshua Francois

Outreach Coordinator, TN-SCORE

jfranco3@tennessee.edu

865.974.8085

TN-SCORE Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Current College or University: _____

Academic Level: _____ Academic Major(s): _____

Overall Collegiate GPA (specify scale): _____

Your Faculty Mentor Name & Institution: _____

List any Previous Colleges or Universities and Prior Degrees: _____

List any Awards, Honors or Published Articles relevant to this Award: _____

List Activities or Group, Society or Association Memberships relevant to this Award: _____

Please rank your thrust interest/preference (1-3, with 1 being most desirable):

___ Thrust 1 ___ Thrust 2 ___ Thrust 3

Please rank location preference (with 1 being most desirable):

___ Vanderbilt ___ University of Tennessee ___ Tennessee Tech

Are you either a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident? ___ Yes ___ No

Are you a Tennessee Resident? ___ Yes ___ No

Gender (optional): _____

Ethnic/Racial Status (optional): ___ African American ___ Asian ___ Caucasian (non-Hispanic)

___ Hispanic/Latino ___ Native American ___ Pacific Islander

(check all that apply)