



## GEMS Near-Peer Announcement

Application Closing Date:  
28 February 2019

**Work Location Site:** U. S. Army Corp of Engineers  
Engineer Research Development Center (ERDC)  
Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL)  
2902 Newmark Drive  
Champaign, IL 61822

**Period of summer internship:** Work 3 weeks between the period: 11 June – 12 July 2019.  
The three weeks will be distributed as full time (40 hr/wk) weeks during the two Day Camps plus 40 hours of intermittent preparation time prior to the camp.

**Openings: 2 Educational Stipend:** Ranges between \$600.00 to \$850.00 (dependent upon education level)

### TECHNICAL DISCIPLINES:

Chemistry, Biology, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Physics, Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or Mathematics with interest in environmental, chemical or sustainable systems engineering.

### LEVEL OF EDUCATION EXPECTED:

Junior/Senior High School or College students with a strong interest of majoring in one of the above technical disciplines are strongly preferred. Previous wet laboratory safety training is desirable. Students with a STEM background and interest in student outreach may also be considered.

### DESCRIPTION OF WORK AREAS:

The Near-Peer intern will assist ERDC-CERL researchers with developing the Gains in the Education of Mathematics and Science (GEMS) program camp curriculum utilizing a teaching module. Prior to the scheduled day camps, the Near-Peer will intermittently collaborate with the primary instructors. During the day camp, the Near-Peer will interact with middle school participants full time assisting and/or leading the task assignments to include laboratory experiments. Participation in this program offers the intern a hands-on experience with teaching inquiry and design modules.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Please feel free to contact the CERL Outreach Coordinator.

Office: Engineer Research and Development Center - Construction Engineering Research Laboratory  
Phone: (217)-373-5862  
Email: CERL-Outreach@usace.army.mil

### HOW TO APPLY:

The GEMS office is working hard to make the application process quick and easy. We encourage all interested students to apply. The application form can be accessed on the Army Education Outreach Program (AEOP) website by clicking the following link (use link complex one) <http://www.usaeop.com/programs/stem-enrichment-activities/gems/> and click the Apply button on the bottom left. More information on reverse side of this document.

## **What is GEMS?**

The Gains in Education of Mathematics and Sciences (GEMS) program promotes the education of regional youth in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). GEMS is offered by the Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) and funded by the Department of Defense to encourage students to enter into STEM-related careers. The Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) provides summer programs under the GEMS umbrella. GEMS is also available at other locations throughout the United States of America.

## **What can a Day Camp participant expect from GEMS at CERL?**

For the interested and enthusiastic middle school or high school student, GEMS at CERL will expose the student to a genuine, hands-on laboratory experience. GEMS may also help them in STEM-related courses at school. The programs offered at CERL are led by Researchers and "Near-Peer" mentors who develop, explain, and execute each activity module.

## **What is a "Near-Peer"?**

Near-Peer mentors are high school seniors and college students and recent graduates from related STEM education majors. These mentors are closer in age to the GEMS participants than the traditional teacher and create a more relaxed atmosphere of learning. The responsibilities of a Near-Peer are to be role models to the students, promote high-level science and math classes, and act as expert resources concerning college life and career pathways. Near-Peers are selected for their technical experience and attitude. Their inclusion is integral in enhancing each and every GEMS student's interest and achievement.

## **What is the Near-Peer's work schedule?**

The Near-Peer will work intermittently leading up to the GEMS I & II (June 17-21 and July 8-12) Day Camps. They assist the primary instructors in preparing the activities/experiment plans. During the day camp, they will work full time assisting and/or guiding the camp participants in completing their tasks/assignments including laboratory experiments.

## **What is a teaching module?**

Our teaching modules are interdisciplinary, inquiry-based, hands-on learning experiments that explore the various fields of STEM academia. We utilize real-world examples and merge theory with practice to cultivate a broad and well-rounded understanding within each student. We require that every teaching module be fun and engaging.

## **Where is the program located?**

The program will be at the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, 2902 Newmark Drive, Champaign, IL. The modules will be taught in a laboratory or training room setting.

## **What are the dates and times that the program starts and ends?**

During the Day Camp weeks, the Near-Peer participants arrive before 7:30 a.m. Each week day is split into a morning and an afternoon session with a few breaks throughout the day. The Day Camp breaks for lunch midday and require participants to bring a packed lunch. Dismissal is at 4:30pm.

## **When can I apply?**

Application Window: Open until February 28, 2019

Notification of placement is sent out on March 30, 2019 by email.

No paper forms will be sent out unless special request is made.

## **How do I apply?**

If the link on the front side doesn't work for you, you can also apply by accessing the Army Education Outreach Program (AEOP) website <http://www.usaeop.com>.

Select "Help Me Find a Program" and then "LEARN MORE" under the Gains in Education of Mathematics and Sciences (GEMS) section.

Select the "Apply" button on the bottom left of the screen.

Under the "Champaign, IL" location, select "APPLY NOW"

Under Applicant Information select "Near-Peer Mentor" next to the "Applying As" question.

Note that your GEMS Program site location is: ERDC-CERL, Champaign.

For issues with the application, contact Army GEMS Help-Desk Email: [aeopgems@nsta.org](mailto:aeopgems@nsta.org); Phone 1-800-807-9852.