Summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)

The Center For Compact and Efficient Fluid Power (CCEFP) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Program allows undergraduates to gain hands-on experience in conducting original research and apply it to cutting edge applications in fluid power and related disciplines. Students from all around the country work at the seven universities that are part of the center. Students have a diverse range of majors, experiences and interests.

What Should I Know?
The program is open to full-time college students who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by June 2010, who will be enrolled as a full-time student in fall 2010 and who expect to obtain their bachelor's degree in engineering, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, or related fields. Applicants are expected to have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States or its possessions. Women, minorities, and students with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply, as are those from colleges and universities without significant research opportunities. No experience in research or in fluid power is required, just an interest and a desire to try something new.

How does it work?
For 10 weeks, students work in a university research lab on a project related to fluid power along with a faculty advisor with expertise in the field. Projects may involve background reading of technical literature and reports, computer-aided design, mathematical modeling, fabrication designs, experimental testing and group discussions and project team meetings. Every student has a project of their own with specific responsibilities and deliverables. At the end of the summer, every student creates a scientific poster and a project report. In addition, there is a program of professional development and social activities with other REU students.

Research experiences for undergraduates are a centerpiece of the National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center for Compact and Efficient Fluid Power (CCEFP).

One of the key education goals of the CCEFP is to increase opportunities for engineering students to gain hands-on knowledge of fluid power principles and applications through real world experiences.

Where do I apply?
Application materials include the following:

1. On-line application form
2. One-page cover letter indicating your interest in fluid power, why you should be selected as a participant
3. One-page resume
4. Contact information of your references
5. A current transcript that indicates current GPA.
6. Two letters of recommendation from faculty members who are familiar with your academic ability, ability to function independently and your research or career goals.

Application Deadline: ~ March 5, 2010

Visit: www.ccefp.org, click Get Involved
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Ms. Alyssa A. Burger, Education Outreach Director, is available to answer questions.