



Program Overview:

Summer Authentic Research Experiences (SARE) for Idaho Colleges and Universities

Introduction: Idaho's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research ([EPSCoR](#)) is seeking student and faculty applicants for summer student research experiences as part of an Idaho-wide National Science Foundation (NSF) funded program focused on Linking Genome to Phenome to Predict Adaptive Responses of Organisms to Changing Landscapes. Research projects can be led by faculty from any Idaho college or university.

This NSF EPSCoR project, known as Genes by Environment: Modeling, Mechanisms, and Mapping ([GEM3](#)), supports three complementary workforce development and education initiatives designed to increase the number, diversity and preparation of skilled scientists and engineers in STEM fields in Idaho:

Summer Authentic Research Experiences (SARE): Summer Authentic Research Experiences (SARE) is designed to engage Idaho undergraduates in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields related to GEM3 research and increase the number, diversity and preparation of skilled scientists and engineers in GEM3 fields (bioinformatics, computational biology, conservation genetics, ecosystem management, environmental science, social science, and many other disciplines).

Each student receives hands-on, paid (**up to \$5,000**) summer research experiences (full-time or part-time educational opportunities available), where they study topics broadly related to the GEM3 project. Each SARE educational opportunity is designed as a learning experience and not employment. The novelty of the approach is the statewide integration of the GEM3 research, and opportunities for undergraduate students to network across the institutions through research team interactions, data collection, fieldwork (e.g., participating in focus groups designed to assess land and water management), and research activities (e.g., support for Unmanned Aircraft Systems flights, field work, and modeling).

SARE Eligibility: All Idaho STEM faculty, and students currently enrolled at an Idaho academic institution, are eligible. GEM3 especially seeks to increase the participation of students from underrepresented groups in STEM (underrepresented minorities - URM), Pell-eligible, rural and/or first-generation students, and women in Idaho's STEM enterprise. SARE provides students with an intensive laboratory and/or field experience, while creating an important bridge between academic year education and between institutions.

Idaho 2-yr and 4-yr Colleges: Idaho EPSCoR strongly encourages participation of students and faculty from Idaho's 2-yr and 4-yr colleges. For faculty, there are many ways to participate and **funding is also available for faculty from 2-yr and 4-yr colleges** who would like to lead a research project; thus, an application to serve as a research mentor or co-mentor with a university faculty member for a SARE student will also serve as an application for funding. Funding includes one month of summer salary and fringe benefits.

SARE Selection and Placement:

Students:

- We encourage students to visit with faculty to discuss potential projects and to help with the placement process.

- Students will be required to complete a short SARE application.
- Students who wish to apply to the SARE program can apply at the link below beginning on **February 1, 2023**. Review of applications will begin **February 17, 2023**.

Faculty:

- Faculty who wish to host SARE students should apply and submit their research description by **January 17, 2023** for priority consideration. SARE educational opportunities will be posted on the GEM3 website for student applicants to review. ***Please note that only faculty are allowed to apply. Graduate students and Postdocs interested in hosting a SARE student must have a supervising faculty member apply on their behalf.*
- For summer 2023, there are 21 paid SARE educational opportunities available for Idaho research institutions (UI, ISU, BSU) and 10 paid SARE educational opportunities available for Idaho 2-yr and 4-yr colleges.
- SARE educational opportunities will range from full-time (approximately 330 hours) to a quarter time (approximately 80 hours) during summer 2023, for a total of up to \$5,000. ***SARE educational opportunities must start between May 15th and May 30th and end between July 21st to August 4th*
- Up to \$500 will be provided to the faculty supervisor for research supplies and/or student travel.

Related Opportunities: Students participating in SARE will be expected to present research results at the Idaho Conference on Undergraduate Research (ICUR) in July 2023 (meeting format and dates TBD), as well as the Idaho NSF EPSCoR Annual Meeting in September 2023 (held virtually-dates TBD). Students will also be expected to participate in a virtual Summer Research Community, hosted by Boise State University, share a brief research profile for GEM3's online student regional map, and network with other students in the SARE program.

How to Apply: SARE applications for faculty and undergraduate students are available online [here](#). Please contact institutional leads if you have any questions:

- Boise State University: Dr. Donna Llewellyn (donnallewellyn@boisestate.edu)
- University of Idaho: Sarah Penney-Jackson (sarahp@uidaho.edu)
- Idaho State University: Dr. Janet Loxterman (loxtjane@isu.edu)
- Idaho 2-yr and 4-yr Colleges: Stephanie Sevigny (stephanieseigny@boisestate.edu)



The project described was supported by NSF award number OIA-1757324 from the Idaho NSF EPSCoR Program and by the National Science Foundation.