Mentor Guidelines for a Successful REU Experience

Below are some guidelines and resources to help ensure a successful REU mentoring experience.

- **Make yourself available and stay involved**
  - The REU student’s interaction with a research faculty member is one of the most rewarding parts of their experience.
  - Your regular attention to their progress is critical to success.
- **Foster community within your group**
  - REU students are likely away from family, friends and their home institution; so connection to others (e.g., other students in your group) is critical to their well-being.
  - Be sure they understand how their work fits into your larger research agenda.
- **Provide training on the skills needed for your project**
  - REU students are not graduate students, so they lack experience.
  - But they can quickly acquire the necessary skills given sufficient guidance.
- **Provide clear expectations for the student’s involvement, progress and deliverables**
  - Be sure to inform the student early on of your expectations.
  - Specifically communicate your expectations in terms of their participation in your group, their time in the lab, weekly progress reports, and final deliverables.
- **Goals**
  - The goal of the REU program is not just to provide a free extra researcher to help in your lab, but to persuade them to pursue graduate research. Specifically, you should:
    - Teach students how to do research
    - Increase student’s desire to pursue graduate research
    - Help them communicate their research via presentation and publication

Online Resources
- Preparing Mentors: scied.ucar.edu/soars/reu/running-an-reu/preparing-mentors
- REU Mentor Resources: www.herl.pitt.edu/education/undergrad/aspire/mentor-resources
- WSU Office of Undergraduate Research: undergraduateresearch.wsu.edu