Dear Colleague:

I wish to bring to your attention the 2011 National Nanotechnology Infrastructure Network Research Experience for Undergraduates (NNIN REU) Program. Students are easily excited about nanotechnology and its research activities cut across most of the major scientific disciplines. I encourage you to bring this summer research opportunity to the attention of your best students.

The NNIN REU Program is a large and highly successful summer program conducted across the fourteen participating sites of NNIN (www.nnin.org), some of the leading nanotechnology university laboratories in the US. 2011 will be the 14th year of our program, during which time we have had over 800 participants who undertook a challenging nanotechnology project, working with NNIN faculty and staff, and using the advanced equipment and process resources of NNIN. Our primary goal is to provide a high level of support to assure that the interns have a successful experience. We consistently receive high marks from the student participants for providing a quality research experience. Similarly, our faculty consistently rate the performance of the students very highly.

There are several unique aspects to our program. Students apply once, online, and their one application reaches our 14 major universities, which are collectively hiring over 80 interns. At the end of our program, all the NNIN REU participants gather at one site for a three day research convocation where they present their results. This exposes the students to the breadth of nanotechnology applications researched by their peers and is a formative professional networking experience. Finally, all of our interns write a research report, and these are published as the NNIN REU Research Accomplishments. (http://www.nnin.org/nnin_reu.html)

As a special additional opportunity, we have established relationships with several international laboratories so that we can place the most successful participants in our program into a 2nd year more advanced research program. In the summer of 2010, ten returning interns (from the 2009 program) worked at the National Institute of Materials Science in Japan, four at the Forschungszentrum Julich in Germany and four at the Interuniversity Microelectronics Center in Leuven, Belgium. The NNIN REU program is the sole feeder to these activities. We expect that similar opportunities will be made available to the most successful participants in the 2010 REU program. This type of exciting follow-on activity is not available in any other REU program.

Our program is highly competitive. We expect to receive over 800 applications for the approximately 80 available positions for the summer 2011. The program is most suitable for students who have completed their sophomore or junior years in science or engineering and who are interested in a science or engineering career. We encourage applications from women and minorities, students from smaller non-research institutions, and students with limited research experience.

We encourage you to make this opportunity available to your best students. REU programs such as ours are critical to students wishing to go to graduate school; we think that our program offers a superior research experience and unparalleled opportunities. Opportunities are available across the range of nanotechnology disciplines — chemistry, biology, physics, and engineering. The enclosed poster contains more details and I refer you to the NNIN REU web site at http://www.nnin.org/nnin_reu.html for additional information and the online application.

Sincerely,

Lynn Rathbun, Ph.D.
NNIN Program Manager