

NSF Notes

REU Grants Encourage Undergraduate Research

Undergraduates throughout the United States are conducting research through an NSF grant program aimed at encouraging students to select careers in mathematics, science, and engineering. The annually awarded Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) grants are managed and funded by the six NSF research directorates. The REU program is designed to attract talented young students to careers in technical fields. It also places special emphasis on providing research participation opportunities for women, minorities, and the physically disabled.

The REU program permits undergraduate students to participate in research through either Site or Supplement awards. REU Site projects involve approximately eight students in research at each site funded. Supplement awards involve one or two students working with individual investigators on research projects already funded by NSF.

Recipients of REU awards represent a wide range of institutions. Among this year's REU sites and projects are:

- University of Southern California, where an REU program on lasers and optics has been established. Undergraduate students are exposed to an interdisciplinary research environment which includes inves-

tigation of semiconductor lasers, ultraviolet transmitting fibers, and thermal transport behavior of optical interfaces and surfaces. Lightwave engineering systems and technology have been identified as one of the key technical areas for current emphasis and future growth, and students are encouraged to pursue graduate studies in these areas.

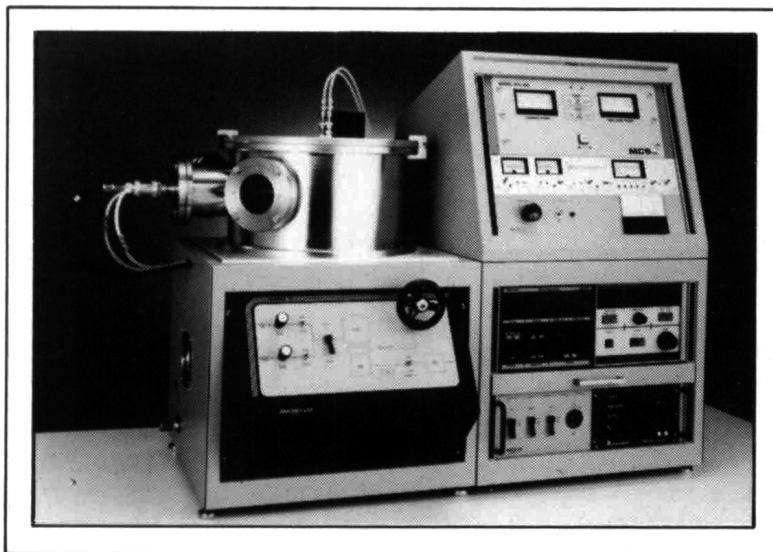
- The University of Arizona, where projects in materials chemistry range from the synthesis of new materials to the physical and chemical properties of matter. The goal of this site's activities is to attract more women for graduate chemistry programs.

- Indiana University, where the Nuclear Physics Program will sponsor undergraduate research opportunities this summer on projects in nuclear physics and nuclear chemistry at its cyclotron facility. At the end of the term, the students will submit papers based on their summer research.

For information on current or future REU grants, contact: NSF, REU Grant Program Office, 1800 G Street, Washington, DC 20550. □

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