

Colorado BioScience Institute Mentor Program FAQ

1. What is the Colorado BioScience Institute (the Institute)?

The Institute is a 501(c)3 non-profit seeking to inspire future innovators by providing educational activities and opportunities for individuals, companies, students, and educators related to the life sciences industry in Colorado, continually working to increase and diversify the life sciences talent pipeline. The Institute has established five overarching program areas that are critical to the future of bioscience in Colorado, including connecting current university students with industry mentors.

2. What is the Mentor Program?

The Mentor Program is designed for undergraduate students studying at a Colorado university with an interest in a life sciences career track. The goal of the program is to expose highly motivated junior or senior level students with mentors in their area of interest. Students will have access to multiple mentors and will be encouraged to engage with them outside of the pre-planned activities. Workforce development is a key driver to the success of the industry and one of the goals of the Institute is to motivate and provide resources for those interested in a career in life sciences.

3. What would be expected of me as a mentor?

Mentors should become acquainted with mentees to gain a greater understanding of their career goals, current situation, and provide guidance. Regarding the structure of the program, we request the following commitments from mentors:

- Attend a brief orientation via conference call for all mentors in September to discuss program execution.
- Attend virtual a kick-off event in October to meet the cohort of mentees and discuss the upcoming activities for the academic year.
- Organize (2) activities (minimum) during the academic year (October-early March) for mentees which actively engage students in the company structure or enhance their professional development.
 - Activity 1 – Virtual/In-person Facility Site Tour: Host students for a virtual or in-person tour or panel discussion with employees from multiple departments and/or job levels; consider opening to entire cohort of mentees when possible.
 - Activity 2 – Mentor's Choice: Suggested activities include (job structures and facility policies vary, these are suggested activities and up to the discretion of the mentor):
 - BYOLunch & Learn, Virtual/in-person meeting with department or staff
 - Virtual/in-person shadowing/company trainings when appropriate
 - Virtual/in-person resume review/mock interviews
 - Virtual/in-person 1:1 sessions with mentees
- (Optional) Philanthropy Day – All mentors are invited to the mentee Philanthropy Day where students will volunteer with a worthy cause that pertains to their skill set. Last year, a group of mentees volunteered for Project C.U.R.E, repairing medical device equipment to send to third world countries. (COVID restrictions may impede this option - More details to come.)

The Institute appreciates your outstanding support of the Mentor Program. We ask that you follow all state social distancing/mask-wearing mandates, company COVID-19 policies, and adhere to all safety suggestions during the pandemic. Thank you for influencing the future innovators in in life sciences in our state!

**Interested in supporting the Institute
by increasing company engagement?**

Contact Meg John,
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