

Colorado BioScience Institute Mentor Program FAQ

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

The Colorado BioScience Institute (the Institute) is a 501(c)3 non-profit that provides biotech education, workforce and career development for life science professionals, companies, students and educators related to the bioscience industry in Colorado. 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 science career track. The goal of the program is to expose highly motivated junior or senior level university 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 Facility Site Tour: Host students virtually for a virtual 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 (since job structures and facility policies vary, these are suggested activities and up to the discretion of the mentor):
 - BYOLunch & Learn, virtual meeting with department or staff
 - Virtual Shadowing/company trainings when appropriate
 - Virtual resume review/mock interviews
 - Virtual 1:1 sessions with mentees or possibly social distance coffee outdoors
- (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 but we'll try our best to make it happen).

The Institute appreciates your willingness to support the Mentor Program in these challenging times. We ask that you follow all State social distancing/mask wearing mandates, company COVID policies and stick to virtual experiences as much as possible to limit everyone's COVID exposure. Thank you again for your support!

Interested in supporting the Institute
by increasing company engagement?

Contact Meg John,
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