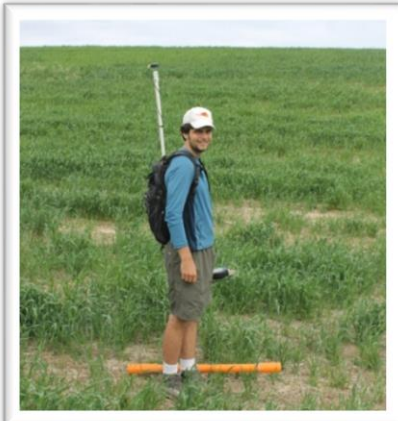# REACCH Undergraduate Research-Evaluation and Future Opportunities

Jodi Johnson-Maynard, University of Idaho

Undergraduate research is an important component of the REACCH Education objective. The first cohort of student interns was recruited for summer 2011. A total of 12 students were accepted into the program and worked with REACCH faculty and graduate students at each institution for a 9-week period. Faculty advisors worked with a NSF-funded internship at UI to offer professional development workshops on preparing for graduate school, ethics and trans-disciplinary communication. Students also participated in weekly seminars and the summer field tour to research sites. Student evaluations indicate a high level of satisfaction with the program. Over 90% of the students indicated that participation in the program influenced their career or personal goals. Students most appreciated gaining research experience but also specific skills such as project planning and the use of excel. Most students felt that the balance of time spent in the laboratory and on professional development was appropriate. The majority of students indicated a need for more field trips. Students are currently being recruited for the 2013 program. We will continue professional development activities, but will focus more development of interdisciplinary research skills. Future opportunities may include student exchanges with the Sustainable Corn project.

Top picture: Summer interns after presenting their results at the final research symposium. Middle picture: WSU intern working with REACCH graduate students in the field. Bottom picture: UI intern working at a REACCH field site.

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