



The Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology Junior Fellowship Experience Executive Summary for Sponsoring Organizations

The Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology (GSMST)

GSMST is a theme high school operated by the Gwinnett County Public Schools serving students throughout Gwinnett County in grades nine through twelve. The focus of the curriculum is advanced studies in science, technology, mathematics, and engineering (STEM) fields. Students complete the majority of their required high school diploma coursework by the end of their sophomore year, and their junior and senior years are focused on intensive studies and experiences in students' selected areas of concentration within three principle pillars: bioscience, engineering, and emerging technologies.

Junior Fellowship Experience

All junior and senior students at GSMST are required to participate in an internship, or fellowship, experience during both their junior and senior years. These fellowship experiences allow students to connect with a mentor who is a current practitioner in applied science, technology, mathematics, and/or engineering fields. The Junior Fellowships include on-site collaboration with the mentor at his/her office and/or lab, as well as virtual or remote contact. An Internship Coordinator and Faculty Advisor at the school will work with each student and each mentor to assure the optimum experience for both. Mentors and students will be trained prior to the start of the fellowship on how to develop and assure a meaningful internship.

Types of Junior Fellowship Experiences:

- **Short term** – A nine week internship, averaging five to ten contact hours per week; students will be matched with a mentor, and together they will develop a proposal for the experience and outline the tasks to be completed and the plan for the culminating product, project, or presentation.
- **Year-long** – An eighteen to twenty week internship, similar to the short term fellowship but expanding to a full school year and potentially summer experience; the tasks to be completed may be greater in number and/or depth than could be accomplished in a short term fellowship; potential will exist for an extension of the fellowship into the senior year as the student's senior capstone project.
- **Independent and/or Summer Research** – A summer (six weeks), semester (nine weeks) or school-year (eighteen to twenty weeks) experience in which students will develop in depth knowledge about a topic of his/her choice, including but not limited to conducting research in the field of interest; students will be required to work with a mentor as a part of the experience.

Options for experiences within each fellowship:

- **Project-based** – Student mentee is assigned to a short-term project within the sponsoring organization (for instance, those projects that organizations have been postponing due to lack of available personnel hours to complete).
- **Orientation-based** – Student mentee has the opportunity to gain an overview and beginning understanding of the STEM applications within an organization.
- **Research-based** – Student mentee conducts short-term research for the organization.

Sponsoring Organization

The sponsoring organization will provide mentors for the student mentees, allow for the time needed by mentors to attend training and to meet with and host student mentees, and support the proposal development and the ongoing monitoring of the fellowship experience. Mentors should have a personal commitment to making the experience a success for both the sponsoring organization and the student mentees.

To express an interest in becoming a sponsoring organization, please contact:

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