



STEM-SI

STEM Summer Institutes at Lehigh University

The fifth annual STEM Summer Institutes (STEM-SI) is planned for May 28-August 1, 2025. STEM-SI is a university initiative that collaborates with existing summer programs (for example, Mountaintop, ATLSS REU) and individual faculty to provide new opportunities for undergraduate student research engagement across STEM fields. We thank those who participated as faculty mentors last year and already have expressed interest in participating as a mentor in Summer 2025.

In brief, the objectives for the STEM-SI program are 1) building a large, STEM-wide community of scholars among participants, with a particular emphasis on engaging underrepresented students; 2) providing opportunities for students to learn about the breadth of activities in STEM at Lehigh and externally through a colloquium series and other STEM-SI events; 3) sponsoring professional development sessions to inform students about the scope of graduate and professional career choices and how to pursue these opportunities; 4) launching a vehicle for faculty that facilitates multidisciplinary collaboration to advance and expand research programs; and 5) building a platform to enhance and strengthen graduate student recruitment.

STEM-SI is a 10-week research-intensive program. Funding for students and projects will come from multiple sources. Our intention is to leverage existing programmatic resources with funds available to faculty through grants or other mechanisms. To be clear, undergraduates accepted to STEM-SI will receive a minimum stipend of \$6000, of which \$500 will be considered a housing and food subsidy.

Please note that if faculty wish to request support for a student through STEM-SI programmatic funds, the student must be selected from the applicant pool *and* be in a group of students that are traditionally underrepresented in STEM. All other student support must come from faculty grants or other sources.

If a faculty member has funding for a stipend through other means (e.g., her/his own research grants), they can select any student or utilize the pool of STEM-SI applicants.

We invite Lehigh faculty to participate in STEM-SI. We ask faculty (or faculty teams) interested in participating as a mentor to submit a project profile survey. It is brief and includes a not more than a 1500-character abstract that incorporates a description of student roles in the project. Please complete the survey by January 31, 2025, which is available at the following link or via the QR code below:
<https://go.lehigh.edu/stemsi2025facultymentorsurvey>.

The survey will allow us to make a full assessment of project opportunities, available funding from interested faculty mentors, how we can best utilize programmatic funds, and compare the opportunities to the interests of students that apply for participation in the program.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions at instemsi@lehigh.edu.

Sincerely,

Vassie Ware, Ph.D.
Neal Simon, Ph.D.
Shaline Kishore, Ph.D.
Chad Kusko, Ph.D



Co-Directors, STEM-SI