



Alaska Space Grant Program

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Dear Potential Graduate Student Research Mentor:

The student presenting you with this letter is applying to the Alaska Space Grant Program for a graduate student research grant. The Alaska Space Grant Program (ASGP) is a participant in the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program. Grants are awarded to students who are U. S. citizens and who are majoring in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics (STEM) fields at an Alaskan institution of higher education. Students are required to obtain a faculty mentor and to propose a NASA relevant research project.

As part of the application process the student is required to obtain a letter of collaboration from a mentor who intends to mentor the student in the completion of the proposed research project and who can provide the required 1:1 match. This letter should indicate the agreement of the mentor to serve in that capacity for the duration of the award. Additionally, this letter should outline how making this award to your graduate student will contribute to increasing the overall research infrastructure capacity in your lab and for your institution.

As a mentor your responsibilities include:

- Assisting the student design a manageable project.
- Assisting the student identify relevance of the project to NASA.
- Meeting with the student regularly throughout the year to insure adequate progress on the project.
- Providing guidance to the student so they can successfully accomplish the project objectives.
- Acknowledging your mentorship effort through an in-kind match to Alaska Space Grant.

The Alaska Space Grant Program requires that all faculty mentors acknowledge their effort toward the mentorship of the graduate student through a 1:1 (in-kind) match. Typically, this match is obtained by assigning a portion of the faculty's (fully loaded) academic salary to this effort. You are required to submit a Match Authorization form signed by a cognizant institutional official. If you have questions about how this is done please feel free to contact me.

Mentors are pivotal in ensuring the success of the student experience. We hope that you take this opportunity to support this student's research experience thereby helping to grow our next generation of scientists, engineers, and educators.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Denise Thorsen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise Thorsen, Director
Alaska Space Grant Program