



Alaska Space Grant Program

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Dear Potential Student Research Mentor:

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

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. This letter should indicate the agreement of the mentor to serve in that capacity for the duration of the award.

As a mentor your responsibilities may 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 requests that all faculty mentors acknowledge their effort toward the mentorship of the student through a \$5000 (in-kind) match. Typically, this match is obtained by assigning a portion of the faculty's (fully loaded) academic salary to this effort. If you have questions about how this is done please feel free to contact me. The NASA grant that funds the Alaska Space Grant Program has a small amount of fellowship funds that do not require match. However, by obtaining additional match we are able to offer fellowships to a greater number of students. ***Your ability to provide match will affect this student's ability to obtain a fellowship by allowing ASGP to award a greater number of fellowships.*** In your letter of collaboration in support of this student's proposed research project please indicate explicitly whether or not you will be able to provide the requested match, and if not please specify why.

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.

Denise Thorsen, Director
Alaska Space Grant Program