

Alaska Is Site of Summer STEM Learning Activities

The National Defense Education Program (NDEP) is set to sponsor two summer educational programs for Alaskan high school students as part

K-12

of its STEM* Learning Modules (SLM) programs. Navy civilian researchers will travel to

Alaska to serve as mentors and special guest speakers for both programs.

Briefly, the programs feature the following activities:

1. **Taku Marine Science Camp**, a 10-day summer camp that will foster a deeper understanding of the marine environment through rigorous, hands-on involvement in research, exploration, and cultural study activities (June 3-13, 2008).
2. **Glacier Bay Summer Research Academy**, a 12-day trip to Glacier Bay to study climate change and the succession of ocean and forest (July 14-25, 2008).

The Taku camp will expose local students

to scientific terminology and research methods as they examine the marine ecosystem in the vicinity of Juneau. Activities will include boat trips on which marine mammals will be observed and hydrophones will be used to record underwater life in various ocean habitats. Daily activities will include GPS mapping, trawl dragging of the ocean floor and plankton net towing, microscopic identification of marine specimens, seafloor mapping, and fish surveys. The camp will also explore native cultural traditions associated with tidal subsistence activities.

As part of the research academy, students and their scientist mentors will travel on a longitudinal traverse of the West Arm of Glacier Bay from Grand Pacific tidewater to the bay mouth. They will track bathymetry and study the retreating glacier processes, plate tectonics and glacial geology, water parameters, plant succession, and animal response. An underlying theme will be understanding the ice advance during the Neoglacial-Little Ice Age (5,000 to 250 years ago) that filled the bay with sediment and ice and triggered the catastrophic calving retreat.

Naval researchers interested in participating as mentors or lecturers, and who can bring along research equipment, including hydrophones, a satellite phone, or a salinometer, should contact Bob Stiegler at 540-284-0442.

*STEM = science, technology, engineering, and mathematics

Summer '07 Intern Will Join Naval Warfare Center After Graduation

A college student who completed a summer internship last year through the Naval Research Enterprise Intern Program (NREIP) will join the defense research team as a full-time employee after he graduates in May 2008. Eric Johnson, an engineering physics major from Oklahoma University, was introduced to the Navy when he worked last summer at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division through the NREIP program, an Office of Naval Research initiative managed by ONR's N-STAR Office.

NREIP interns spend 10 weeks, typically following their sophomore or junior year in college, at a Navy research facility under the mentorship of a Navy scientist or engineer. They work on a problem relevant to the Navy and learn what it is like researching new technologies for the warfighter. Many summer interns, like Eric Johnson, get hooked on the joys, challenges, and benefits of a career in a Navy lab or warfare center and are eager to come back once they get their degrees.

Welcome aboard, Eric! ★

Postgraduate

link up

We hope you enjoyed our second issue of NDEP STARLink. If you are not on our free e-mail distribution for the newsletter and would like to be — or you have any other comments or input — please send a message to NDEP's Bob McGahern at robert.mcghern@osd.mil

STARLINK Staff

Allie Buzzell, Managing Editor
301-371-9656
alliebuzzell@gmail.com

Tom Linn, Senior Editor
540-657-9737
tlinn@staffnet.com