



**RIDER**  
UNIVERSITY

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Dear Colleague,

Rider University is pleased to announce a call for student applications for its 2018 Project SEED summer research program.

Project SEED is an enrichment program sponsored jointly by the American Chemical Society (ACS) and local industry that provides high school juniors and seniors, from low-income families and communities, with the opportunity to perform guided chemistry research in an academic or industrial laboratory. Ultimately, SEED is about more than doing science. Part of the mentoring experience is learning life skills, preparing students for the real world, and opening their eyes to careers they had never even dreamed of pursuing.

The success of Rider's SEED program over the past thirty years can be attributed to the wealth of opportunities for mentorship, collaboration, and personal achievement provided by our chemistry department and local industry. Eight weeks of guided research on an original project is only one part of the full experience. SEED participants will also be invited to tour various industrial companies and attend scientific talks, meetings, and symposia. Towards the end of the program, SEED students will present their research in both academic and professional settings. The benefits of our SEED program outlast the summer. Rider's close-knit chemistry department is dedicated to supporting and counseling SEED students, especially during their college application process, which often results in a lifetime of guidance and personal mentorship.

I urge you to begin pursuing candidates from your classroom that have not previously participated in the SEED program. Applicants should exhibit a high level of academic achievement, have an admirable work ethic, and be highly motivated to perform meaningful research over the summer. Eligible student participants will have completed a full year of introductory high school chemistry, and cannot be matriculated in college prior to the Fall 2018 semester.

Applicants must be recognized as economically disadvantaged to be eligible for a SEED summer fellowship. This means preference will be given to students whose maximum gross family income does not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for family size. Exceptions to eligibility for Project SEED may be made where there is evidence of factors precluding a student from considering a career in science. Please contact me if you have questions about an applicant's eligibility.

This year, Rider will award three or four fellowships, depending on the quality of the applicant pool and availability of mentors. Awardees will be paid \$2500 in three installments throughout

the summer. Although SEED fellows must arrange their own transportation to and from Rider, as the Institution does not provide room and board, the scholars will be eligible for reimbursement of incurred transportation and meal costs.

To further promote our program, I would like to give a short presentation and information session to juniors and seniors in your science classes sometime between March 19 and April 30, 2018. Upon receipt of this notice, please contact me at the email or phone numbers above so that I may accommodate your class schedule as well as possible. If possible, coordination of a date that is suitable for your entire science faculty is desirable.

**On Thursday, May 17, at 3:30 PM, Rider University will host an information session for students, and their teachers, interested in the SEED program. Students will receive more information, take a tour of our laboratories and other facilities, and be provided with the opportunity to meet the 2018 Project SEED faculty mentors. Students and teachers must RSVP by Tuesday, May 8.**

**SEED applications are due by Monday, May 21. One application is included with this letter, or may be alternatively downloaded at [www.rider.edu/chemistry](http://www.rider.edu/chemistry). Click on the “Project SEED” link on the main Department of Chemistry webpage to discover our newly updated website and to download the application and instructions.**

**All applications and materials can be submitted by mail, facsimile, or email to the contact information listed in the letterhead above, as one package. It is strongly encouraged that applications be submitted prior to, or at, the information session.**

Thank you in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Project SEED. The continued success of Rider’s program begins with you. Should you require any further information, feel free to contact me. I look forward to working with all of you.

Sincerely,

Jamie L. Ludwig, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Chemistry  
Project SEED Local Program Coordinator  
Rider University

### 2018 Program Schedule

March 9	Letters sent to high school teachers
March 19 – April 30	Visitations to local high schools
May 17	Rider SEED information session
May 21	Deadline for SEED applications
May 23-24	Interviews of SEED candidates
May 25	SEED fellows announced
June 1	Deadline for SEED student financial statement
June 11 – August 10	Program runs for SEED fellows (subject to change)
August 9	Rider Summer Research Symposium
August 20-21	Presentations at National ACS Meeting in Boston
August 24	Deadline for final reports and surveys