NASA Opportunity for Student Airborne Research

NASA seeks highly motivated advanced undergraduate and early graduate students for participation in a summer 2010 research program in Earth system science using its DC-8 flying laboratory. The Student Airborne Research Program (SARP), is managed by the National Suborlital Education and Research Center (www.nserc.und.edu).

Students will acquire hands-on research experience in all aspects of a scientific campaign, using a major NASA resource for studying Earth system processes, calibration and validation of space-borne observations, and prototyping instruments for possible satellite missions. Students will operate instruments onboard the DC-8 aircraft to sample atmospheric gases and to image land and water surfaces in multiple spectral bands.

Applicants should have a strong academic background in disciplines relevant to the Earth system, including the physical, chemical, or biological sciences, or engineering.

Eligibility requirements include full-time student status at an accredited U.S. college or university. Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to apply. Successful applicants will be awarded a stipend for participation in the 6 week program, beginning June 20, 2010, in Southern California for classroom, laboratory, and aircraft experience. NSERC will provide travel to and from California and living expenses while in California.

Application materials should include:
- 2 page personal statement describing the student’s interests in pursuing research in the Earth sciences and other special qualifications.
- Letter of recommendation from a professor or advisor familiar with the student’s abilities.
- Official undergraduate and/or graduate transcripts.

Selection criteria will include:
- Excellent academic performance
- Promise for contributing to nation’s future workforce as judged by career plans
- Evidence of interest in Earth system science and hands-on research
- Geographic, gender and ethnic diversity
- Ability to perform in teams

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FEBRUARY 22, 2010
Submit by mail to:
Rick Shetter, NSERC Director
Center for People and the Environment, University of North Dakota
4149 University Avenue, Stop 9011
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9011
More information can be found at http://www.nserc.und.edu/learning/SARP, or by telephoning Mr. Shetter at (701) 330-2126.

Or submit electronically to:
r.shetter@nserc.und.edu