Dear Science Chairperson:

For more than 125 years, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) has shaped contemporary biomedical research and education with programs in cancer, neuroscience, plant biology, and quantitative biology. Home to eight Nobel Prize winners, the private, not-for-profit Laboratory is more than 600 researchers and technicians strong. The Meetings & Courses Program hosts more than 12,000 scientists from around the world each year on its campuses in Long Island and in Suzhou, China. The Laboratory’s education arm also includes an academic publishing house, a graduate school, and programs for middle and high school students and teachers.

The United States is a world leader in basic science, and we can help continue that leadership by giving students interested in science an early opportunity to try a career in basic research. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) developed the Partners for the Future Program in 1990 to bring select several high school seniors from public and private schools on Long Island to work with the world-class scientists on our campus.

We invite you, in consultation with your faculty, to nominate up to three juniors from your school who have expressed a particular interest and academic strength in biology, physics, or mathematics and who are eager to participate in this rigorous program. CSHL is committed to broadening participation in science, has active WiSE (Women in Science and Engineering) and DIAS (Diversity Initiative for the Advancement of STEM) groups, and encourages applications from female and underrepresented minority students. Motivation and interest are critical for students to benefit from this unique experience. Completed nomination packets must be submitted by you, the high school science chairperson, not the student.

Please emphasize to your nominees that space in the program is limited and that nomination does not guarantee a place in the program. We accept up to 12 students based on the pool of qualified candidates and the availability of suitable CSHL mentors. CSHL scientists will determine which students will participate in the program based on the nomination application and interviews. Program participants and their faculty will be notified by the end of this school year. Highlights of the program are outlined below, with more detail on requirements as well as nomination forms available www.cshl.edu/education/partners-for-the-future. At this link, you can access videos and stories about student experiences in this program.

Eligibility: Students must be entering their senior year in September 2020.

Program schedule: September 2020 through March 2021
Students who have an interest in entering science fairs may start in June with the agreement of their CSHL mentor.

Weekly schedule: Laboratory hours will be worked out between students and their individual mentors. Doing research in a laboratory requires a significant and regular time commitment. From our previous experience we have found that students with extensive extracurricular activities are unlikely to have
enough time to participate and we suggest that you consider this in your nomination selection.

Transportation: Students must provide their own transportation to and from CSHL.

Financial aid: Admission to the program is need-blind. If a student is admitted and requires financial assistance to cover travel expenses, CSHL will provide a stipend to fully or partially cover the expenses.

The CSHL Partners for the Future program is just one of many opportunities for you and your students to engage with the CSHL campus. We hope that you are already taking advantage of the DNA Learning Center on-line, in-class, and field trip programs. Visit www.dnalc.org for the latest information. CSHL’s annual Cultural Series of public scientific lectures and concerts will begin in the spring, and we encourage you and interested students to attend free of charge. Please visit www.cshl.edu/public-events for the latest information on all of our public programs.

Sincerely,

Lynn Carmen
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