

# Exploration Summer 2020

## ROBERTSON SCHOLARS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

### Who makes a good Exploration Project Mentor?

The following is a rendition of the conversations I've had with Scholars, combined with information pulled from various communications/documents. Your Mentor must not be a family member or current Robertson or undergraduate.

Scholars have often underutilized their Exploration Mentors. Again for 2020, we're making a concerted effort to recognize the commitment these individuals make to your summer experiences.

Because Exploration Summer projects are so individualized, it's hard to say who will be a good mentor for each situation. Basically, you should invite someone you want to talk to about your Exploration summer.

- This might be a faculty member or staff person you already know, or one you'd like to get to know.
- Maybe this is somebody who could also be an honors thesis advisor and you want to test him/her out.
- This could be someone on site at the place you'll be spending your Exploration Summer. For example, if you want to work with a law office in Argentina, maybe someone in that office could be your mentor.
- You may have met someone great during Community Summer with whom you'd like to work in a different context.
- Robertson alumni make great mentors. They know the pressures you face and the kinds of opportunities possible in the summers. They also might have contacts who could be helpful for you.
- Your major advisor or Pre-Major Advisor can be a mentor.
- Maybe you work in a lab now and you'd like to do related work during the summer. The lab director, or the grad student you work with most closely, could be a mentor.
- The person doesn't have to be an expert in the activity you want to pursue but should be willing to talk with you about it.

Why do we want you to have an Exploration Mentor?

- We all need practice asking for help and guidance, and it's really hard for Robertsons to do that. Here's a chance to practice that skill.
- Scholars tend to pick topics that are outside the expertise of the program staff, so it's good to get help from someone other than staff, especially if that person knows something about the field.
- Bringing someone into the project from outside the program raises the visibility of the good things that happen during Exploration Summer.

What will the Mentor actually do?

- Check the Exploration Overview and the Info for Potential Mentors, both posted on the summer blog.
- What the Mentor actually does will be dependent on your needs and on how he/she can contribute. But we will ask you in every draft how you're working with your Mentor and we will not approve drafts that have limited Mentor involvement.

**Turn in the name of your Exploration Mentor by October 30, 2019.**