Pause in LANL summer student programs

John Sarrao, Deputy Director, Science, Technology and Engineering, issued this announcement on Monday, March 23

Effective immediately, we are pausing all summer student programs for 2020. Specifically, until this guidance is modified, we will no longer transition to regular from causal status, onboard, or hire additional students or student guests. For the purposes of reporting to work or teleworking, “year-round” students already working at the Laboratory are treated as other lab employees.

We are taking this step out of concern for the health and safety of our workforce and our current and future students, and driven by the extraordinary measures that are currently in effect due to the ongoing pandemic (social distancing, significant mentor teleworking, self-isolation requirements upon arrival in New Mexico and other steps).

Our summer students are a key element of our workforce and our future staff pipeline. We are actively exploring options to create safe and meaningful opportunities for our students including remote work, virtual summer schools, online lecture series and other possibilities. However, it seems likely that our student population during the summer of 2020 will be substantially curtailed.

While we recognize that this guidance is incomplete and subject to change as the situation evolves, we believe it is important to communicate the current pause to all concerned in order to hopefully reduce impacts on affected students who might be considering travel and housing plans for this summer.

We will update this guidance and the status of our summer student programs as developments warrant. We are also happy to address individual questions via email to: student_programs@lanl.gov

We fully understand that this action adds to the stress and uncertainty that many are feeling in this current crisis. We therefore ask for your patience and support as we all work through this challenging period.