Lifting of pause in LANL summer student programs

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John Sarrao, Deputy Director, Science, Technology and Engineering, issued this announcement on Monday, April 20:

Effective April 20, 2020, I am lifting the pause that I put in place relative to LANL summer student programs on March 23, 2020. While various mechanisms and processes for student onboarding and employment are being re-initiated (described in detail below), the Summer of 2020 will be like no previous summer for our student programs. Our primary driver will remain the health and safety of our workforce, including our students, and our community. Significant constraints and restrictions will remain in place. We will not be able to offer employment to all previously planned students and we anticipate a program that is approximately half the size of prior years.

Summer student appointments will be virtual assignments with an expectation of 100% off-site telework. Further, we strongly encourage our students to not relocate to the Northern New Mexico region for the summer.

In working remotely, students will be expected to have access to personal computing resources to enable connectivity to Laboratory IT resources through our student portal. We do not anticipate providing government-owned computers to student employees and guests. This will limit the Laboratory resources to which students have access.

As the Laboratory remains in a maximum telework posture, onboarding services and other institutional resources, especially for new-hire students, have limited capacity. As a result, start dates will be less flexible and potentially later than desired.

Finally, we have placed significant constraints on student mentors and their managers relative to their capacity for hosting students because of the enhanced responsibilities associated with mentoring and supervising students remotely during these extraordinary times. These constraints will result in fewer students being accommodated than previously anticipated.

Students will be informed of their individual status through their mentors and managers. These decisions will be phased over time; not all decisions will be made simultaneously. We anticipate resolving the status of all pending students no later than May 1. No new applications for students for summer 2020 will be accommodated.

While the above does not represent the scale or scope of the student program we anticipated, we’re excited to be able to accommodate and benefit from as many of our students as our current circumstances allow. Summer students have been an incredibly valuable part of our rich and diverse research environment, and the program this year will attempt to continue that - in a way that factors in the global COVID-19 situation. We also anticipate a return to a full “normal” summer student program in 2021.
Additional information is available at our Student Programs website or the Student Programs site on LANL.gov. We also welcome your questions and feedback at student_programs@lanl.gov and appreciate your patience and understanding in these challenging times.