Pause in LANL summer student programs

John Sarrao, Deputy Director, Science, Technology and Engineering, issued this announcement on Saturday, April 4

On March 23rd, I announced a pause on LANL student programs for summer 2020. This pause, which is still in place, was initiated 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. In this update, I would like to provide additional information on our planning to date and foreshadow next steps.

We are actively exploring options to create safe and meaningful opportunities for our students including remote work, virtual summer schools, online lecture series, etc. We are also assessing our institutional capacity to support such opportunities, including human resource functions, information technology infrastructure and hardware, and our ability to accommodate limited site access as well as regional housing considerations. Finally, we are analyzing with our managers and mentors our capacity to provide effective mentorship and supervision for our students. We remain committed to identifying opportunities for students to work with the Laboratory both in the near and the long term.

While we have not yet made any final decisions, we have clarified that certain categories of students with longer-term appointments are exempt from the pause and we are onboarding them. We also anticipate that, within the next one to two weeks, we will begin making decisions on certain categories of students, including, e.g., summer school participants, cohorts associated with specific regional and national programs, and students working with individual mentors and groups. These decisions will be phased, with the intention of making decisions as quickly as possible for particular classes of students. We will then communicate these decisions to affected students, including additional restrictions or constraints that might impact their individual appointments, with the goal of completing all decisions by the end of the month. We recognize the stress that uncertainty is creating, and we are working to make clear and sustainable decisions as quickly as we can; thanks for your continued patience.

For the most up-to-date information, we encourage you to visit our Student Programs website (https://int.lanl.gov/employees/education/index.shtml or https://www.lanl.gov/careers/career-options/student-internships/index.php) including the FAQs posted there. We also welcome your questions and feedback at student_programs@lanl.gov.