LANL summer student programs pause update

John Sarrao, Deputy Director, Science, Technology and Engineering, issued this announcement on Tuesday, May 5

On April 20, 2020, I lifted the pause on LANL summer student programs, defined some restrictions that would exist (e.g., virtual-only assignments, reduced mentoring capacity, etc.), and anticipated a summer program that would be approximately half the size we had been planning, due to COVID-related constraints. I also articulated a goal of updating each potential student of their status by May 1. With this note, I would like to update you on where we are and what work still remains in launching our 2020 summer student program.

As with much of the country, regional conditions in New Mexico are evolving slowly. The Governor of New Mexico has announced a multi-phase reopening plan. Stay at home guidance remains in place, through at least May 15, and travel remains significantly restricted, including a fourteen day self-quarantine for individuals arriving from out of state.

We have made significant progress in resolving the status of our potential summer students; however, this effort is not yet complete. For approximately 55% of potential returning and new hire students, we have identified a path to onboarding them over the next few weeks. For approximately 30% of potential returning and new hire students, we have regretfully determined that we cannot offer them a position this summer. Finally, for about 15% of potential returning and new hire students, their status has not yet been resolved. If you have questions about your personal status, please contact your mentor and/or our Student Program Office (student_programs@lanl.gov). We expect to resolve the status of all potential returning and new students over the next week. I would be remiss if I did not thank our student mentors and managers, as well as our student program office staff, for their hard work in identifying paths forward for many of our students in spite of challenging circumstances and institutional constraints.

Finally, once we have resolved the status of all of our students, we will be transparently communicate overall statistics including % of planned students we onboarded, % of planned students who declined our offer as a result of their own personal circumstances, and % of planned students that we were not able to accommodate.

Thanks again for your patience and support in these challenging times.

John