

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE IN ALPINE METEOROLOGY



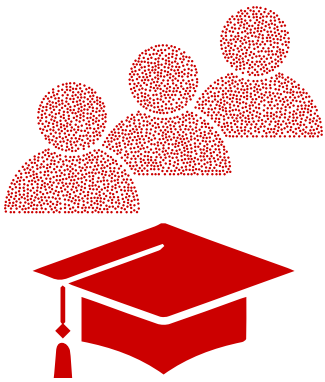
The Inclusive Research Experience in ALpine Meteorology (REALM)

in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Utah provides a diverse group of undergraduate students with a 10-week paid summer research internship that includes a research project conducted under the guidance of faculty mentors, professional development training, and support from the REALM Mentorship Council.



REALM 2023 cohort at Storm Peak Lab

REALM PARTICIPANTS 2021-2023



3 cohorts

A total of **26 students** and **28 mentors** have participated

32% of

REALM REU students were **first-generation** college students

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **100% of REALM students** would recommend the program to others
- Students rated the **Summer Symposium** and **Storm Peak Lab Trip** as most useful activities



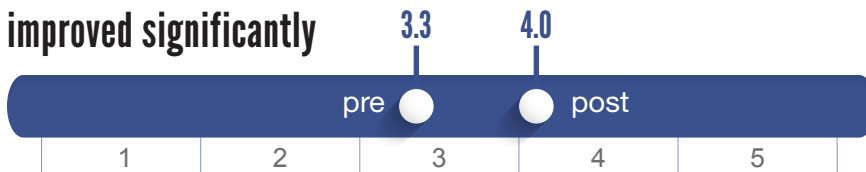
Suggestions for improvement: Students would have liked more organized social events with the REALM cohort and more of the highly-rated REALM Seminar Series



PROGRAM IMPACTS

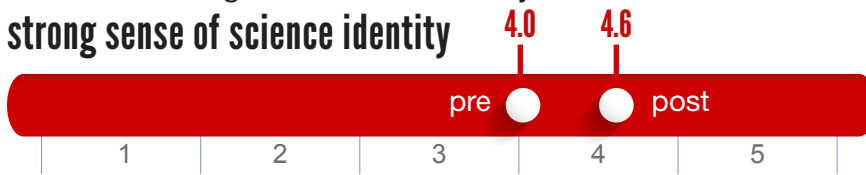
Students' confidence in their research skills

improved significantly



Students strengthened their already

strong sense of science identity



Students strengthened their already

strong sense of belonging



Mentors rated students' progress as scientists-in-training highly.

Mentors thought students improved most in the areas of **computer programming, research skills, understanding of the research process, confidence, communication, and independence.**

Completing the REALM program positively impacted students' future academic and career plans.



likely to pursue a graduate degree

Students credited the REU with **showing them how research** is done, **building professional networks**, and **boosting their confidence** to pursue research opportunities.



likely to work in a science field



likely to work in a science research field

What students are saying about REALM!

“ It **opened doors** to so many different areas of research for me that I otherwise would not have known of! ”

“ It really helped solidify and **give me confidence** that I want to pursue atmospheric science in my future education! ”

“ I especially appreciated the chance to **meet lots of meteorologists** and hear about their experiences and research. ”



Prepared by Christine Okochi and Ami Nacu-Schmidt, CIRES Education & Outreach, University of Colorado Boulder. Funding provided by the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program Award No. 1851943. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the NSF.

Learn more: atmos.utah.edu/get_involved/reu

