

From: _____
To: _____
Cc: _____
Subject: _____
Date: _____
Attachments: _____

Dear Colleagues:

I have written before about the Remote Experience for Young Engineers and Scientists (REYES - <https://odu.edu/reyes>) program. Now I am asking for your help with the REYES program for summer 2021.

In the summer of 2020, a group ODU Faculty and Staff (led by Raúl Briceño and Giovanna Genard) created REYES in response to the COVID cancelation of other in-person outreach programs. REYES aims to make STEM-H more accessible and provides free educational STEM-H programming, including guest lectures, classes, panels, and other types of activities. Although the content is aimed at High School students, the material is widely relevant for ODU undergraduate and even graduate students, as well as the general public.

In its first year, REYES had over seven thousand registrants from 115 countries. Of these, approximately 60% were unfamiliar with ODU prior to REYES, and 60% expressed that their opinion about ODU improved thanks to REYES. In other words, REYES is helping put ODU on the world stage for thousands of students. What is perhaps even more important, 70% of the participants felt more confident and enthusiastic in pursuing both a career in STEM and conducting research thanks to REYES. In short, REYES is helping inspire the next generation of scientists.

Given its success, the REYES team is launching a 2021 summer program for four weeks starting on June 28th. This year we will be hosting more lectures, classes, and panels. In addition to these activities, REYES is creating a research-based worldwide mentoring program, which will match experts [Faculty, Staff, Postdocs,...] with aspiring scientists from around the world. The mentor would guide the potential mentee through either (i) a research projects, (ii) literature review of a specific topic, or (iii) a shadowing experience. The model for this mentoring program resembles that of the REUs.

The organization of the REYES program, as well as the time dedicated to providing the lectures/classes/mentoring, is being done on a volunteer basis. With this in mind, I would like to ask all of you to consider helping REYES by:

- Promoting REYES with your contacts [flyer is attached],
- Encourage your students to register [go to <https://odu.edu/reyes>],
- Volunteer to give an “engaging” talk aimed at high school students [contact Raúl, copied

on this email]

- Encourage postdocs, grad students, or collaborators to volunteer,
- Volunteer to serve as a mentor: <https://forms.gle/R7fC7JxVksT18gcZA>.

REYES is a great opportunity for our own students, for prospective students, and for interested members of the public around the world. Please help make it a success!

Best Regards,

Gail

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