



**Governor's Office of
Storm Recovery**



For Immediate Release

Contact: GOSRpress@stormrecovery.ny.gov
Ginny.S.Ehrlich-Greenberg@hofstra.edu

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STORM RECOVERY AND HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY LAUNCH 2018 LIVING WITH THE BAY HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER SCIENCE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

\$240,000 Program Funded by GOSR, the Hofstra University fellowship is part of an integrated strategy to provide Environmental Stewardship opportunities to Long Island youth.

Hempstead, NY (July 13, 2018) - The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) and Hofstra University today announced the start of the first year of the Summer Science Research Program that pairs some of Long Island's brightest high school science students with Hofstra faculty for an intensive five-week program. Working closely with Hofstra faculty mentors, students will develop environmental research projects related to Long Island's Mill River Basin watershed on Long Island's South Shore in southwest Nassau County.

The \$240,000 Summer Science Research Program, slated to run for four consecutive summers, is funded through GOSR's Rebuild By Design *Living with the Bay* program. Designed to foster both civic engagement and independent thought, the summer program will give Long Island's next generation of scientists the building blocks with which to start their careers as they learn to preserve and promote their local environment. This year's session kicked off on July 9th.

Laura Munafo, Program Manager, Rebuild by Design: Living with the Bay at GOSR, said: "The Summer Science Research Program gives high school students an unequalled opportunity to immerse themselves in meaningful, serious academic research under the tutelage of Hofstra University faculty."

Hofstra University selected 18 students for this year's session. Applicants come from Hempstead High School, West Hempstead High School, South Side High School, Malverne Sr. High School, Oceanside Sr. High School, Oceanside High School Castleton, East Rockaway High School, and Lynbrook High School, all schools with significant low-income and minority student populations.

This state-funded Summer Science Research Program is a new version of the long-running Hofstra University Summer Science Research Program (HUSSRP) that also for many years

offered research-oriented high school students the opportunity to work with Hofstra science faculty.

Students are chosen based on their academic record, interest in science, teacher recommendation, and an interview with program faculty and staff. They work in two-to-four-person research teams in the field and in the classroom. Within these small teams, students gain hands-on research experience, mentored by Hofstra professors, as they design and complete discrete research projects aimed at deepening understanding of the watershed's environment.

Dr. J Bret Bennington, Chairperson of the Department of Geology, Environment, and Sustainability at Hofstra University, said: "Hofstra University is very excited to be hosting students from high schools in the Mill River watershed in our Summer Science Research Program. These students will be engaged in authentic scientific research directly relevant to the watershed, including projects investigating the sustainability, ecology, hydrology, meteorology, and contamination chemistry of the suburban, freshwater wetland, and coastal environments of southern Nassau County. After working with Hofstra scientists during July and August, the students will present the results of their investigations at a poster session on the Hofstra campus in September."

Lawrence Levy, Executive Dean of the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University, said: "Once upon a time, it was enough to fire imagination of school children by putting a few holes in a construction fence and let them watch it at their leisure. Nowadays, it's critical to engage students hands-on and to involve them in Science-based programs related to important infrastructure projects in their own backyards. That's what we intend to facilitate for the next four summers."

The program runs from early July to mid-August and culminates in a public poster presentation, where students may showcase their findings. While enrolled in the program, students will participate in larger research projects that affect the Mill River Basin and its communities. Research subjects include monitoring the ecological health of local wetlands, analyzing flooding's relationship with storm intensity and rainfall, and assessing public response to resilient infrastructure improvements. These projects require long-term monitoring and data collection and will extend beyond the program's five-week period. Following the program's completion, local high school teachers will establish their own research programs on the Mill River Basin, furthering the program's scientific research.

The Summer Science Research Program is part of GOSR's \$125 million Living with the Bay Project which was developed in response to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Rebuild by Design (RBD) program to meet a series of goals specific to the needs of communities along Long Island's Mill River: flood mitigation, preserving quality of life, restoring environmental health and water quality, creating and improving waterfront access, and providing water-related education opportunities.

Established in June 2013, GOSR coordinates statewide recovery efforts for Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Through its RBD Program – as well as its NY Rising Housing Recovery, Small Business, Community Reconstruction, and Infrastructure programs – GOSR invests \$4.5 billion in federal CDBG-DR funding to better prepare New York for future extreme weather events. More information about GOSR and its programs is available online at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/>.

About Hofstra University

Hofstra University is a nationally ranked and recognized private university in Hempstead, N.Y. that is the only school to ever host three consecutive presidential debates (2008, 2012 and 2016). At Hofstra, students get the best of both worlds. Our campus is a leafy oasis just a quick train ride away from New York City and all its cultural, recreational and professional opportunities. We offer small classes and personal attention, with the resources, technology and facilities of a large university. Students can choose from more than 160 undergraduate program options and 165 graduate program options in the liberal arts and sciences, education, health professions and human services, the Peter S. Kalikow School of Government, Public Policy and International Affairs, the Fred DeMatteis School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Frank G. Zarb School of Business, the Lawrence Herbert School of Communication, the Maurice A. Deane School of Law, the Hofstra Northwell School of Graduate Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies, and the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell. Hofstra University is a dynamic community of more than 11,000 students from around the world who are dedicated to civic engagement, academic excellence and becoming leaders in their communities and their careers.

About the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University

The mission of the National Center for Suburban Studies is to advance the goals of suburban sustainability, social equity, and economic development through research, education, and public outreach.

About Living with the Bay

Living with the Bay was developed through the federal Rebuild by Design Competition— a unique collaboration among government, the non-profit sector and private interdisciplinary firms. Launched by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the summer of 2013, the RBD content encouraged the creation of inventive recovery and resiliency blueprints that raised the bar for response, preparedness and resiliency. HUD awarded \$930 million in Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery funding to support six winning proposals in the metropolitan region, including Living with the Bay.

To read an article from *Innovateli* on the program, visit <http://www.innovateli.com/albany-hofstra-true-watershed-moment/>.

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