California State University | INSTRUCTIONALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES | CHANNEL ISLANDS

Proposal # _521_____

Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR: GEOFF DOUGHERTY
DEPARTMENT: MATH & APPLIED PHYSICS
ACTIVITY TITLE: INTERNSHIPS AT CERN
DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: 1ST JUNE – 10TH AUGUST, 2013

E-mail to the IRA Coordinator at lisa.ayre-smith@csuci.edu within 30 days after the activity.

Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!!

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;

The (3) students joined separate research groups, and were assigned specific tasks within the groups for a period of 10 weeks under the supervision of a CERN faculty member.

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

The activities were closely related to the preparatory courses (Phys 497), in which they learned how to program in ROOT and the basics of fundamental particle physics.

(3)WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?

The internship taught the students how to work collaboratively in a team with top international physicists and engineers, and take the responsibility for a specific part of the team's project. It showed them the level of effort, commitment and performance required to succeed in such an environment.

(4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?

The CERN faculty members generally took a 2-week vacation during the 10 weeks, and a back-up advisor was not always available. This is being addressed for future visits.

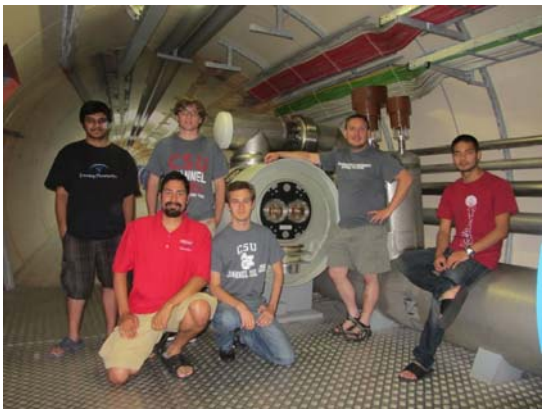
(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?

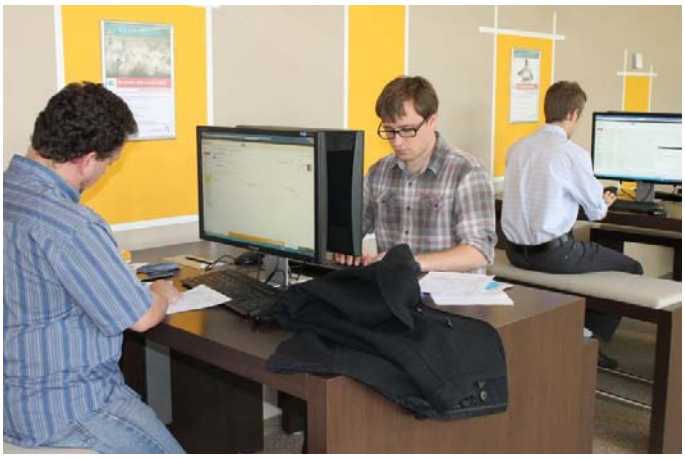
It would be useful if coordination with CERN could deliver more specific details of each project that our students will work on at an earlier stage, say some weeks before they travel.

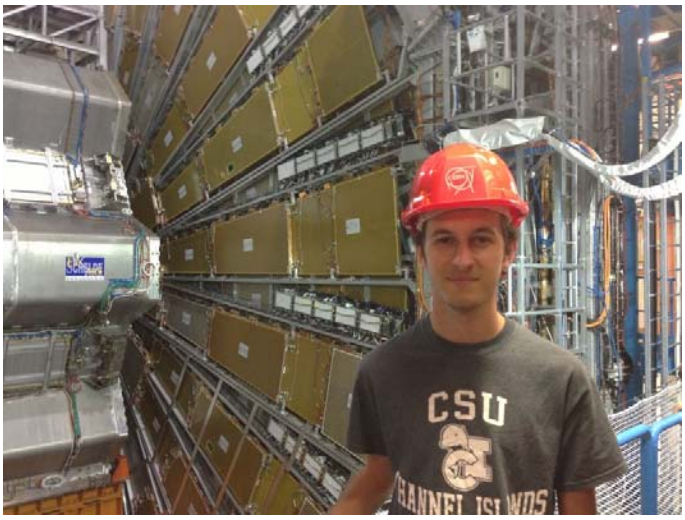
(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?

It was very interesting to be exposed to the procedures at CERN, and to see the multi-faceted research approach that has led to so many fascinating discoveries. It was also good to see that our best students are on a par with the best from around the world.

A selection of images (summer 2013)



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