IMPACT of the NE-INBRE Scholars Program

Each year our external evaluators conduct interviews with current and graduating INBRE Scholars. The feedback from these students is helpful in defining the success of the program. What follows are comments from several Scholars, comments that highlight the impact of the Nebraska INBRE on the careers of these students.
I guess what I appreciated was two-fold; first really being able to work on the cutting edge of what we know about excellular regulation. It was neat to be studying a structure that’s not really mentioned in textbooks, it’s just briefly mentioned, so when you’re sitting in microbiology class, what we don’t get that, I researched that. But more than learning the procedures and doing the research I appreciate the people I’ve met. I’ve been able to develop relationships with my professors because I was able to stay at my university the whole time. Working with the other students and grad students too, I guess I learned that I really like the academic environment.”

“My experience in research with the INBRE program has altered my career/education plan significantly. When I started out I wanted to develop software for small business, now I’m going to pursue a graduate degree in molecular biology and continue on with academic research.”

“This is a wonderful and life changing experience!” “Just wanted to say thank you for the opportunity. It was great working with all involved and I’m honored to have been a part of it.”

“…I don’t think I would have continued my education had it not been for this program. I have had a lot of support from the coordinators and have a lot of respect for them as well. Currently I am in my second year as a graduate student and am in the middle of submitting my first fellowship.”
“The INBRE program really helped me decide that I did like research. It was an incredible opportunity to be able to work in a lab so much as an undergraduate and get paid, so that I did not have to find other outside jobs.”

- After participating in the INBRE program, I am determined to apply for a biomedical PhD program.
- My research has affirmed my desire to pursue my PhD and continue with a research-based career.
- It has increased my excitement and determination to continue my research-oriented career.
- It has definitely pushed me from being on the fence about being a researcher or an MD toward wanting to make research my career.
- My research experience has solidified my decision to go into research.
- I will be attending graduate school…I had originally thought I would go to vet school.
- Research has helped me to realize the types of science I enjoy and what fields I would like to pursue after graduation.
I am attending graduate school because of my great experience as an undergraduate researcher.

Doing this research has shown me a new avenue that I had not previously known existed. I hope to go to graduate school and get my doctorate now, as a direct result of this program.

My research experience has been very influential on my career plans. Before becoming an INBRE Scholar, I was not seriously considering research as a career choice because I didn't know much about it. I would say that my experience in the INBRE Program the last couple years has been highly influential in my decision to pursue a combined MD/PhD degree rather than an MD.

Working full time as an INBRE researcher in the summer with faculty and grad students who were so excited by their research was great. I had never thought about research as a career prior to being an INBRE student. This fall
I will attend graduate school, working towards a PhD in biochemistry, and I give credit for INBRE for first showing me the possibility of this career path.

- Thank you to everyone who works so hard in this program... You are a blessing.
- Awesome program that has opened up many more doors for me, and increased my knowledge of research and the graduate school process.
- If I didn’t have INBRE I would not be going to Harvard. I don’t think I would have ever thought that I could go to Harvard. I think learning just in a classroom would have been really bland in comparison. Having research and being actively involved in that helps my classes that I’m taking now seem so much more relevant, and so much more exciting, because I can see that this stuff actually matters.

“INBRE was huge. It helped me develop my problem-solving; had to figure out things on my own. I learned to read research and developed better communications skills.

“The most important part of my education. It helped me pick the subject I was going to study and taught me to “talk the talk and walk the walk” as a researcher. It was a big factor in getting into grad school.”

“It definitely helped me decide what I wanted to do in life. Consequently, I applied for a Ph.D. program in immunology.”

“Research experience has solidified my acceptance into a grad school and solidified that I want to continue doing biomedical research for years to come.”

I loved it. There could not have been a better opportunity for me. INBRE program made me a very competitive candidate for graduate school admissions. I feel so fortunate that I could be part of it.”

Overall, the reaction of INBRE Scholars to the program can be summarized through a comment one student added at the end of the survey – “I have had a very positive experience in the program that has really set me on a great path for graduate school and the rest of my life.”