BEST @ Cornell
The Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training Newsletter

Events | May 2018

From PhD to Regulatory Affairs Professional | 05/18/18 1:00PM-2:00PM
Do you seek to work in a federal agency? Dr. Rajni Singh, PhD’12 in Molecular and Integrative Physiology will share her experiences transitioning from a researcher to a regulatory affairs professional. She was an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) fellow before taking her current position as a Consumer Safety Officer at the FDA. Location: 102 Mann Library

2018 EWISE Symposium | 05/23/18 10:00AM
The Empowering Women In Science and Engineering (EWISE) symposium is a one-day professional development event for faculty, staff, postdocs, PhD students, and professionals that provides participants with the opportunity to network with women and champions of women across the STEM disciplines. Location: See Registration Form

Save the dates: The BEST Program and Graduate School invite you to join the AAAS Workshop: Engaging with Policymakers on June 5 and Pathways to Success on June 6. See links for more information and registration details.

BESTies have a knack for hacking

A group of 13 Cornellians, including 6 BESTies, joined more than 100 participants from 7 universities for a policy hackathon at MIT on April 6-8. Teams of 6 experts from diverse fields worked together over the course of 48 hours to analyze relevant data and to develop innovative proposals aimed at helping Boston achieve a sustainable future. Participation by the Cornell contingent was spearheaded by BEST advisory board member, Celine Cammarata (see sidebar).

BESTie Joseph Long, PhD student in Biomedical Engineering explained, "I went to the MIT Policy Hackathon with no experience in policy making whatsoever. I was in a group of scientists and engineers who were in the same shoes as me... We persevered through the experience and discovered some of the qualities that scientists need to drive data-based policy decisions.” Marie Zwetsloot, PhD student in Horticulture was surprised that, "I had no idea I could do this. I've been working with my own data, but I never realized I had so many marketable skills.” Read more here.

One of the hallmarks of the BEST program is that it provides opportunities for experiential learning and skill development. That means a lot more than simply “doing something” like attending the Hackathon. It also includes the notion of engaging as an organizer and driver of ideas and activities. This is just one example of BESTies being exemplars of what the program is about!

Ethan Sanford, Editor
js372@cornell.edu