Cornell BEST Program
Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training

Hallmarks: Flexible Experiential

Rethinking training for Cornell STEM PhDs & postdocs for tomorrow’s careers

www.BEST.cornell.edu
This slideshare presentation tells you what BEST trainees have gotten out of their participation in the Cornell BEST Program... IN THEIR OWN WORDS.

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www.BEST.cornell.edu
“BEST helped open my eyes to what could possibly be out there.”
“I like the role trainees have in initiating ideas, and that the BEST Program is tailored to your needs.”
“BEST helped me clarify my career goals.”
“Opportunities aren’t found, they are made.”
“I’m looking for ways to be intentional about the skills to develop for my career.”
“The BEST program boosted my self-confidence and helped me recognize transferrable skills and positions that could be a good fit for me.”
“The ability to deal with uncertainty and to collaborate with many different types of people will be huge assets.”
“I realized I liked more hearing about others’ research than my own.

I have broad interests.”
Our PhD and postdoc participants are empowered to make an informed career choice through **EXPOSURE** to the many career paths available to STEM PhDs and by **DOING** the skills they will need in their future careers.

**We seek mentors and sponsors** who think this is a good idea and want to contribute their time, energy and opportunities with our motivated and passionate PhDs.

Join: [www.BEST.cornell.edu](http://www.BEST.cornell.edu)
“Take advantage of resources while here at Cornell, especially in leadership and science communication.”
“Hiring isn’t all about looking at your resume… use your network!”
“People will pursue opportunities if they know about them.”
“You have to do what you want to do.”
“The TEAM is everything... for commercializing your idea, in a case competition, or for successful research.”
“The BEST Program enables and empowers us to learn about various career possibilities…

…and then once chosen, to obtain exposure & acquire skills needed in those areas to be more qualified.”
“Happy people are passionate about their work.”
“Without the BEST Program, I would not have had the conversation with my PI that I was not interested in becoming a PI; I was pleased to learn he was supportive of my goals, even sharing his contacts who had pursued other paths.”
“PhDs are deemed unhireable due to their antisocial nature - they are seen to do nothing but their research: be sure to exhibit your outside activities!”
“I like that the BEST Program is more about *doing*.”
“When a student has options to explore other areas, it provides additional motivation.”
“I don’t want to be like friends of mine, doing a 2nd postdoc.

I want to start my career!”
“BEST empowers you to pick something of importance to pursue that’s individualized.”
“You put the BEST Program in my reality.

Now I know I have the BEST Program on my side.”
“BEST supports your idea, offers training, and gives time, effort and resources to make your idea stronger and make it happen.”
“Thanks to the BEST program I was able to transition out of research into a non-academic job I love.”
“Graduate students have control of their own destinies. But most of them focus on what’s been done by our predecessors. It’s a linear way of thinking that if you do this, this and this you’ll be fine. It doesn’t work that way anymore.”
“When I interviewed, they liked that I had done some consulting [through CGCC] and could come up quickly with answers.”
“I think the BEST Program is important for building those skill sets you need.”
“Taking initiative to build collaborations & create opportunities is what should define BEST participants.”
“At the end of the day, our PhD programs are meant to prepare us for our future careers; how can that goal be accomplished if the program fails in informing us as to what our career options are in the first place?”
“I like the BEST Program because it allows us to see the profession first-hand.”
If you feel the same way, join our Cornell_BEST LinkedIn group.

- more info available at www.BEST.cornell.edu

Follow us on Twitter at @Cornell_BEST