

September 4, 2012

Ms. Susan Engelhardt
CIVET Executive Director
Rutgers University

Dear Susan:

On behalf of the Graduate School-New Brunswick, I would like to thank you for CIVET's valuable contributions to the academic enrichment/professional development component of our undergraduate summer research program, RiSE (Research in Science and Engineering). Since RiSE partners with several NSF REUs, including two hosted by the School of Engineering, CIVET reached a significant cohort of summer research students, many of whom we expect will continue on to graduate study at Rutgers.

Your "Perfect Pitch" workshop provided the students with new perspective on the bridge between academic science and commercializable technology. Not only did you open their eyes to the possible applications of their projects beyond the lab, but you underscored the critical importance of clear and impactful communication to gain the support of stakeholders. The guidelines on successful pitching helped the students substantially in honing their own presentation skills, a vital component of our summer program.

The subsequent workshop on entrepreneurship, led by Dr. Tim Maguire, reinforced your message and gave students an opportunity for hands-on practice. Student feedback on this opportunity was highly positive.

Thank you again for adding an important and exciting dimension to the experience of our summer interns. Those who do return to Rutgers for graduate school will have already had an orientation on the opportunities that CIVET can offer.

Sincerely,



Evelyn S. Erenrich, PhD
Assistant Dean, Recruitment and Retention
Rutgers Graduate School-New Brunswick
Visiting Associate Professor, Dept of Chemistry & Chemical Biology