

Call for Applicants

PAVER Fellowship

(Partnership to Advance Veterans Education in Research)

The PAVER Fellowship provides a "real-life" research experience for those veterans currently enrolled at, or recently graduated from, accredited Idaho universities who may be considering further graduate education and/or a career in biomedical research or related healthcare sciences.

The PAVER Fellowship supports a 10-week mentored, biomedical research opportunity in the basic science laboratory of an established Infectious Disease investigator at the Boise VA Medical Center. The fellowship typically runs from May to August (summer semester), though other times may be arranged. Awardees receive \$7200 for the 10-week session. Additional support of \$500 is provided to offset laboratory supply costs and travel expenses to scientific meetings.

The PAVER Fellowship runs concurrently with other undergraduate summer research programs at the Boise VA and those at other institutions in Idaho. Students at the Boise VA present an oral abstract at our annual VA Biomedical Research Symposium and participate via poster presentation at the annual Idaho IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) meeting in Moscow, ID. Research by PAVER Fellows is highlighted in the VA's The Boise Front newsletter, local and statewide media, and national VA news outlets.

Applications for 2023 summer fellowships are due November 2, 2022, and must contain all elements listed below.

Selection is a competitive process with 1 awardee this year. Fellows are chosen based on their applications as a whole; elements are not necessarily weighted in the order listed. **Completed applications should be sent to kandy.pretz@va.gov with PAVER in the subject line.**

Application requirements:

1. Personal Statement that addresses the following:
 - a. Interest in biomedical science and research
 - b. Obstacles you have overcome to obtain your education
 - c. How the PAVER Fellowship will enhance or direct your career decisions and goals.
2. Academic transcripts including science classes taken and GPA
3. Date of expected or actual graduation and degree
4. Reference letters (2 minimum; 3 are preferred)
5. A copy of your DD Form 214 "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty".

We strive to interview top applicants face-to-face during the first two weeks of February with award decisions made by the end of February. Those not chosen for PAVER Fellowships may be considered for other funded student research opportunities at the Boise VA.

The Infectious Diseases Center of Excellence seeks to discover, develop and advance novel new approaches to prevention, diagnosis and treatment of severe life-threatening infections plaguing people of all ages worldwide. Information on current projects and Principal Investigators can be found at www.ivref.org.

The PAVER Fellowship is made possible by a generous donation from the John and Alma Stevens Educational Trust.