**University of Arizona is recruiting Industry Mentors for Project Poem, Project-Based Learning Opportunities and Exploration of Mentorship for Students with Visual Impairments in STEM**

The University of Arizona program in visual impairment is recruiting 8 – 10 industry mentors who are blind or visually impaired for Project Poem, Project-Based Learning Opportunities and Exploration of Mentorship for Students with Visual Impairments in STEM, a National Science Foundation research grant.

Eligible industry mentors must: (a) have a visual impairment; (b) be employed in a STEM-related field in the US; and (c) agree to give a minimum of three hours of their time per month to the 14 month project.

If a mentor is interested in applying to the program, s/he will be interviewed by 2 members of the Project Poem team. During the interview, we will verify if applicants are eligible to participate in the study. If accepted, a written consent form to summarize steps involved in the industry mentorship will be provided in regular print, large print, or braille.The industry mentor will be engaged in the following Project Poem activities if accepted into the project:

1. **Readiness Academy**: In June 2018, a weeklong summer experience will expose 8-10 students with VI between grades 7 to 11, to careers in STEM-related fields through hands-on activities at The University of Arizona (UA). Industry mentors will participate in an online training program through a web conferencing platform to mentor a student interested in STEM-related subjects and careers. The training sessions will focus on topics including establishing expectations, maintaining effective communication, assessing understanding, fostering independence, and addressing diversity.

2. **Exploration activities** will be conducted during the academic school year where the student with VI will have virtual meetings with an industry mentor who is working in a STEM-related career. Simultaneously, the student will work virtually with a university mentor to design and carry out a project to further understanding of the scientific inquiry practices based on PBL. During the Exploration Activity, students with VI will complete specified assignments together with their industry and university mentors.

3. **Enrichment Institute**: In the following summer, the students will return to Tucson for one week to stay in a UA dorm and experience college life. During the day, the students will visit labs and job sites. The student will also present the Project POEM project based learning activity that was worked on with the industry mentor and UA science student mentor. Industry mentors, university mentors, parents/guardians, and TVIs will be invited to join the Symposium either in person or virtually through a bidirectional internet-based video conferencing system.

4. Industry mentors will complete surveys and interviews during each phase of the research project. At the beginning and end of Project POEM, the industry mentor will be given a survey to complete. The industry mentor will also be interviewed to understand his/her perceptions on student-industry mentor matching, and to reflect on student outcomes throughout Project Poem to pursue STEM related careers.

5. Industry mentors are expected to participate in the complete 14 month project which includes mentor training and activities.

**To make a referral to Project Poem:**

Please pass on our research team contact information to potential participants who can contact Dr. Irene Topor at 520-626-3863; [ilt@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ilt@email.arizona.edu) or Dr. Sunggye Hong at 520-621-0945; [sghong@email.arizona.edu](mailto:sghong@email.arizona.edu) directly with the information below or to ask for more information about Project Poem.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Visual Impairment: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Braille reader: \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No Print reader: \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No Dual media reader: \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

Age: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Industry Mentor meets 3 criteria to be considered in study: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ No

Why did you choose to be a potential industry mentor for Project Poem?

How did you hear about Project Poem? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact information: Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please note that an Institutional Review Board responsible for human subjects research at The University of Arizona reviewed this research project and found Project Poem to be acceptable, according to applicable state and federal regulations and University policies designed to protect the rights and welfare of participants in research.