

NWABR

Northwest Association for Biomedical Research

As you are aware NWABR has been reviewing the feasibility of providing its summer camp program (Camp BIOMed) this year in the context of the current Coronavirus pandemic and the toll that COVID-19 is taking on our community. We have been very closely following the advice from the CDC, the Washington State Department of Health, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Governor.

It is very clear that programs like ours are not allowed to be held at the present time. What is unclear is where such educational programs sit in relation to the phased reopening strategy being implemented in WA.

After reviewing all the available information, and looking at all possible options, we have come to the incredibly hard decision that we cannot provide the Camps in an educationally sound and engaging manner and at the same time guarantee a risk free environment for your student.

For the above reasons I have decided to cancel Camp Biomed for 2020. Like you, I am incredibly disappointed by this decision. I know your students, and my faculty, have been excited about coming together in an in-person learning environment. However, I had to make this decision as we had to put the safety needs of students, faculty and their families first.

You can call me at any time if you wish to discuss this decision.

As noted, we will be providing a replacement program that may interest your students over the summer. **This program will be free.** We will use virtual technology to:

- a. Provide a series of lectures, demonstrations and discussions inspired by the original camp curricula.
- b. We will also provide Teacher time, where your student can have one on one time with members of our faculty. We have found that many students spend a lot of time talking with faculty about education and career options and we want to keep this opportunity for one-on-one time open.

These programs will be completely free and we will be following up with more details (and maybe some more survey questions) as we build an interesting and engaging replacement curriculum.

Thank you,
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