

Clinic Program



Harvey Mudd College Clinic Directors will be at LANL on the morning of Tuesday, March 17th from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. to discuss their Clinic Program with interested personnel. The meeting will be held in the Los Alamos Research Park Building in Room 203b. The point of this visit is to develop relationships with program officers and managers, and explore ways in which LANL and HMC can collaborate on mutually beneficial projects. A brief description of their program follows. Please contact Kathie Womack at womack@lanl.gov, 505-663-5206 if you are interested in attending.

The Harvey Mudd College Clinic Program engages students in the solving of real-world, technical problems for corporate clients, national and research laboratories. Our engineering, mathematics, physics, and computer science departments each conduct Clinic projects that draw upon the unique talents of our students and faculty advisors. Since Clinic was developed at Harvey Mudd College over 40 years ago, over 330 organizations have participated and our students have completed over 1,200 projects.

Students work in groups of four or five under the guidance of a student project manager, a faculty advisor, and a liaison from the sponsoring organization. Projects begin in September, involve about 1,200 to 1,500 work hours and are completed the following May. The sponsor's liaison outlines the project requirements, approves the team's proposal for accomplishing the work, and receives weekly progress reports. In most cases the student team visits the sponsoring company during the first month and typically provides a summary presentation to senior officials at the end of the project. Clinic teams present their research during public forums held on-campus and submit final written reports to the corporate customer upon completion of the project. **Sponsors retain full rights to all intellectual property developed by the team.** Every Clinic Project is formally presented at a special year-end event called Projects Day.

Clinic is the centerpiece of the professional practice component of the College's curriculum. Our clients pay a fixed fee for student teams to work on current problems which the company or agency needs solved. The objective is to produce useful results on an open-ended authentic project to the client's satisfaction within the constraints of time and budget. The students do the work; the faculty advises, coaches, and evaluates; the client informs, guides, and accepts or rejects the results. This time-tested program produces outstanding solutions for the vast majority of clients; in recent years these projects have resulted in over 10 patent disclosures being filed annually.

Los Alamos National Laboratory has sponsored 9 Clinic projects since 2003. Recent projects include: 2007-08: *Ultra-Low Magnetic Resonance Imaging System*; 2006-07: *Design and Construction of a Thermal Link for Optical Isolation*; *3D Interactive Museum Exhibit*; 2005-06: *Mathematical and Computational Modeling of Tumor Development*

