

[NJ Big Data Alliance](#)

NJ-RISE Industry Summer REU Pilot Program 2026

Program Name: NJ Research in Industry Student Experiences (NJ-RISE) Industry Summer REU Program

Program Description: A new summer undergraduate research program developed by the New Jersey Big Data Alliance (NJBDA) where teams of students, guided by academic and industry mentors, collaborate on data or AI-related research projects sponsored by industry and government over an eight to ten-week period.

Program Goals:

1. Promote NJ research in big data and AI
2. Foster collaboration between industry and academia
3. Train undergraduate students to be successful future researchers
4. Support NJBDA's affiliate members in growing their organization

Sponsor Benefits:

1. Increase productivity by pursuing company projects in collaboration with leading academic researchers in NJ
2. Bring fresh perspectives and new ideas in solving company challenges
3. Access to talented students as potential new hires
4. Increase company visibility in supporting NJ workforce development
5. Low-cost (\$10K sponsorship), high ROI

Program Committee:

- Hieu Nguyen, Rowan University, nguyen@rowan.edu (chair)
- Rashmi Jain, Montclair University, jainra@montclair.edu

Start/End Dates: mid-May to mid-Aug 2026 (actual start/end dates will vary depending on individual project timeline and length of project)

Program Guidelines:

1. Sponsors (companies from industry and government agencies) propose research projects to NJ-RISE (through NJBDA); sponsors should designate at least one person from their organization to be industry mentor(s) for the project if possible
2. RISE Committee assists sponsors and their industry mentors to select appropriate academic mentors from NJBDA member institutions to supervise their project
3. RISE Committee assists academic and industry mentors to select qualified students from NJBDA member institutions to collaborate on the project
4. Academic and industry mentors establish scope, format and duration of the project
5. RISE Committee (through NJBDA) will provide logistical support regarding IP agreement and processing of stipend payments for academic mentors and students
6. Program requirements:

- a. Minimum of 2 students per project
 - b. Duration of 8-10 weeks between mid-May to mid-August (exact start/end dates determined by project mentors)
 - c. Welcome reception/introductory workshop at NJBDA Symposium (usually held in mid-May each year)
 - d. Students commute to attend team meetings (at least weekly; mix of virtual and in-person meetings); otherwise, students can work remotely or on their campus
 - e. Site visits with sponsors (optional)
 - f. Students work 30 hours/week
 - g. Student stipend of \$500/week (\$4000 for 8 weeks, \$5000 for 10 weeks)
 - h. Faculty stipend of \$200/week/project (\$1600 for 8 weeks, \$2000 for 10 weeks)
 - i. Program fee to cover administrative/food/facility costs - \$400/project (waived for NJBDA affiliate members)
 - j. End-of-project team presentations (sponsor representatives are invited to attend)
 - k. End-of-project team written report (delivered to sponsor)
 - l. RISE student poster conference (sponsor representatives are invited to attend)
 - m. Projects that make significant progress are invited to submit their work for publication in the Journal of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (NJBDA's flagship journal)
7. Funding from sponsors
- a. Minimum sponsorship per project (1 academic mentor, 2 students): \$10,000 (8 weeks) or \$12,000 (10 weeks)
8. Goal for summer 2026 - pilot at least 2 projects