Research opportunity available to explore biology education research!

Did you know that around 50% of people in the United States reject evolutionary science? Would you like to engage in research that aims to change this? If so, ASU’s Biology Education Research (BER) lab might be the place for a young budding researcher such as yourself! The ASU BER lab is run by SoLS professor Sara Brownell. In our lab, we aim to identify ways to improve undergraduate biology education and we are looking for an undergraduate research assistant to aid in our studies for the 2014-2015 school year:

1. Exploring the ways in which religious beliefs affect the way people accept/reject evolution and climate change
2. Identifying ways in which instructors can help students with different religious beliefs become comfortable with climate change and evolution.
3. Identifying ways in which educators might inadvertently spread anti-science attitudes in undergraduate biology classes.

We are looking for a highly motivated and independent undergraduate student volunteer who has a strong work ethic and who is also inquisitive about science advocacy and education research. The work is interdisciplinary, drawing on the fields of biology, psychology, and education so any background or interest in these areas would be beneficial. The duties of the volunteer will include assisting with data collection, preparation, and analyses, as well as attending weekly lab meetings. Freshman, sophomore, and junior biology, psychology, and education undergraduate students are eligible to apply.

Upon accepting this position, you may also fulfill your undergraduate biology curriculum requirements. You can do this by using the volunteer hours to enroll in 1-3 undergraduate research credits. Although the hours spent working on projects will vary from week to week, we expect the research assistant to be available ~10 hours/week.

If you are interested in this position, please send a one page document outlining your education background, academic goals, research interests, and a short description of any research or employment experience to Liz Barnes (liz.barnes@asu.edu) and Sara Brownell (sara.brownell@asu.edu).

Volunteering in our lab will be an excellent chance to gain research experience, explore your interests in science education, and make new friends and colleagues that will become important resources for your future academic and employment pursuits. We look forward to hearing from you!