



Award number 2150045

Dear BUILD Scholars,

August 19, 2024

Welcome back from summer break! I hope you had a chance to relax, take care of yourself, and are ready for another awesome semester.

It is with a mix of emotions that I am announcing my retirement starting September 2024. It has been an incredible experience and opportunity working at MSU Denver for the past 17 years. I am deeply grateful for the privilege of supporting and working for you. Watching so many of you grow and mature over the years has been a source of immense pride for me. I cherish the memories we've created together and the relationships we've built. If you would like to stay in touch, please feel free to reach out to me at my personal email liu.hsiuping@gmail.com.

Dr. Robert Niemeyer will take over as the Principal Investigator of the BUILD program. You still have an amazing BUILD team to support you. In addition to Dr. Niemeyer, you have Elizabeth Simonton (elsimonton@msudenver.edu) for all day-to-day questions, Justin Wu (juwu@msudenver.edu) for all technical questions, Linda Sivertson (lsivertl@msudenver.edu) for all stipend related issues, and Lori Taylor (ltaylor50@msudenver.edu) for wrap-around support. Please do not hesitate to contact any of them.

Below we outline the BUILD Program requirements and services. BUILD program aims to help you build your STEM identity and succeed in your education endeavors.

BUILD Scholar Commitments (<https://www.msudenver.edu/advanced-stem-education/build-scholarship-program/build-scholar-commitment-and-support/>):

- **Participate in four required events.** These required events are not meant to create obstacles in your academic journey. If you cannot attend a required event due to class, please contact Elizabeth Simonton (elsimonton@msudenver.edu)
 - RM-AMP/BUILD Welcome Back, Tuesday, August 27, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., SI 3001
 - Scholarship Application Workshop, Wednesday, September 18, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. SI 1113
 - Belonging/Identity, Thursday, October 17, 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., SI 3001
 - RM-AMP/BUILD Community Dinner, Thursday, November 7, 2024, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Baerresen Ballroom, Tivoli 320ABC
- **Participate in two optional events.** Check out our website for a list:
<https://www.msudenver.edu/advanced-stem-education/build-scholarship-program/build-scholar-commitment-and-support/>

If you attend an event that is not on our list, but you think should be counted as an optional event, please contact Elizabeth Simonton.

- **Meet with a BUILD Advisor once per semester.** Please reach out to Elizabeth Simonton for your advising appointment. We love to see you early and throughout the semester.

BUILD Supports and Services

- **Participate in an internship, research project, or shadow an internship/research project.** Applications are due October 1st for Spring 2025. To apply, visit the following website:
<https://www.msudenver.edu/advanced-stem-education/build-scholarship-program/build-scholar-commitment-and-support/>

- **Meet with a Peer Mentor once per semester.** This semester you have two awesome peer mentors, Bee James and Kaylynn Garrett. You can find their schedule <https://www.msudenver.edu/advanced-stem-education/build-scholarship-program/build-scholar-commitment-and-support/>
- **STEM Tutoring:** We have tutors in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics. They are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. **in person** in the STEM Learning Center SI 1009 **for free**. Please utilize this awesome resource and share it with your classmates and professors. The Fall 2024 tutoring schedule can be found on our website at <https://www.msudenver.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Tutor-Schedule-Fall-2024.pdf>
- **Writing Tutoring:** Bonnie Brady is available in the STEM Learning Center SI 1009 to assist you with papers, essays, scholarship applications, job applications, and resumes. Bonnie's schedule can be found on our website at <https://www.msudenver.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Tutor-Schedule-Fall-2024.pdf>
- **Scholarships:** Johnson and CASE scholarships are available in the fall semester. Details on submission can be found on our website at: <https://www.msudenver.edu/advanced-stem-education/rm-amp/scholarships/> Your essays for these scholarships are due **October 1, 2024**
- **Textbook Program:** Our textbook borrowing program is growing thanks to your donations. We have textbooks for general biology, microbiology, genetics, general chemistry, organic chemistry, algebra, and calculus for you to borrow. It is on a first come first serve basis. If you have a textbook need, contact us. Please also consider donating your used textbooks to the Center instead of selling them back to the bookstore for pennies.
- **Passport to Success:** The purpose of the passport program is to engage you in additional excellent opportunities and resources offered by the Center for Advanced STEM Education and the University. For more information, visit <https://www.msudenver.edu/advanced-stem-education/build-passport-to-success/>. You can pick up a Passport from Lori Taylor. Her office is in the Science Building room 1051.

We are always interested in the progress you are making toward your degree. If you are graduating this fall, please let us know as soon as possible so we can celebrate your success. If you have any questions and/or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your continued participation in the program.

Sincerely,



Dr. Hsiu-Ping Liu

Email: hliu1@msudenver.edu



Dr. Rob Niemeyer

Email: niemeyel@msudenver.edu



Lori Taylor

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