The Health and Medicine Living-Learning Community @ B.E.S.T. Hall is a self-selected group of students who will enjoy the benefits of sharing common residential and academic experiences while making new friends, exploring common interests and being a part of a close community of peers. Students will benefit from special programs in the residence hall and having a peer mentor in residence to provide help in answering questions related to Rutgers and beyond. The community is designed for students who have an interest in pre-medicine, and who aspire to follow a career path in the health professions. The program focuses on two student populations: first-year students transitioning from high school to college, and students who have lived in B.E.S.T. prior, who are returning for a second-year LLC experience. Peer mentors in this program will enhance the undergraduate experience of the students by living in residence and serving as a mentor and leader of the community. Through academic programs and activities, formal 1:1 interactions and informal interactions, the peer mentor works to provide a unique and academically supportive living-learning experience for the residents. A number of first-year experience peer mentor positions are available.

Specific Responsibilities include:

- Promote and encourage a dynamic, positive and fun academic environment
- Meet individually with assigned mentees twice a semester (minimally) with the first meeting occurring within the first 3 weeks of the fall semester.
- Implement academic programming (minimum of 4 a semester, including 1 RA collaboration) that reflects the academic and career interests of the students in the community.
- Work with the residence life staff to ensure that the LLCs are inclusive and stress educational aspects of students’ development.
- Keep residents informed regarding pertinent academic policies, deadlines and events for SAS and SEBS.
- Initiate and sustain study groups.
- Serve as a referral to appropriate faculty, department, and support services for students.
- Complete weekly community social rounds to build and maintain relationship with residents.
- Create and maintain bulletin board: develop theme for the semester and update academic information on a monthly basis, in order to keep residents well informed of all programs and events.
- Meet with Residence Life Coordinator as designated, including a biweekly 1:1 and weekly staff meeting.
- Attend monthly meetings with B.E.S.T. staff and FIGS Peer Instructors (Friday afternoons).
- Assist the Residence Life Learning Communities office in recruitment activities in the spring semester.

Benefits of Becoming a Living-Learning Community Mentor

- Share experiences and offer support to Health and Medicine students
- Gain program planning and community building skills
- Meet new people
- Work closely with RU departments and faculty
- Gain greater knowledge of campus resources
• Enhance leadership skills
• Great resume builder!

**Compensation and Time Commitment**
• Stipend of $1,000 per semester, total $2000 for the academic year
• Peer Mentors will be offered a room in an enhanced upper-class suite with four single bedrooms and a living area. NOTE: Mentors are responsible to pay for their own housing.
• Mentors are able to choose 3 roommates to live with them in this space
• Overall responsibilities will require on average approximately 5 hours per week of active engagement from the Peer Mentor, as well as the understanding that living in residence implies on-going informal interactions.

**Conditions of Appointment**
• Peer Mentor will serve for one academic year, beginning April 2016 and ending May 2017.
• Must be in good academic and judicial standing during the term of employment.

**Eligibility requirements**
• Be a full-time School of Arts and Sciences or School of Environmental and Biological Sciences student
• Have sophomore standing by August 2016
• Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.7 with preference given to 3.0 and above. Be in good academic and judicial standing
• Successful completion of General Biology with a C average or higher
• If currently a part of the B.E.S.T. community, you must be B.E.S.T. eligible.
• Must be pursuing a science-related major e.g. Biological Sciences
• Strong interpersonal and organizational skills and self-motivated

**Application & Selection Process**
• **All applicants must apply for a lottery number between January 18 – January 26**
• A completed online application for this position includes an essay and resume
• Student will receive an email on or before Tuesday, January 12th if eligible for in-person interviews (individual and group). Students must sign up for an interview prior to January 13th at noon.
• Interviews will be held either Tuesday, January 19th or Wednesday, January 20th in McCormick Hall
• Candidates notified by Friday, January 29th of hire
• Candidate must accept position by Monday, February 1st

**Mandatory Training Sessions and Orientation:**
• Orientation and training will be held on April 15, April 22 (Discovery House/Health and Medicine only), May 12, and the week of August 29th, managing your summer commitments to end prior to the start of training.
• Meet with Residence Life Coordinator regularly, including a biweekly 1:1 and weekly staff meeting.
• Once a month Friday afternoon meetings with fellow mentors and FIGS Peer Instructor
Essay Questions: Please answer the following questions in one essay of 500 words or less. Attach answers in a Word document with your full name and the name of the LLC listed at the top of the essay document.

1. What personal characteristics and skills do you possess which would make you an effective Peer Mentor?

2. The first-year of college can be a challenging adjustment for an incoming student. Please describe what challenges first-year students, pursuing a science related/pre-med track may encounter and how you believe this mentor position can assist these students.