The role of the mentor begins with the application. Mentors should help students formulate an interesting and viable project, vet the student's application, and provide a letter of support.
The faculty mentor has research expertise and content area knowledge, so the mentor provides guidance related to all aspects of the research tasks the student is engaged in. We leave the particulars of the mentoring relationship to individual faculty members, although we do ask that you communicate steadily with students in some form throughout the 5-week session.
The Winter Fellows Program offers students several workshops.
Below you can find more specifics about responsibilities and tips for mentoring Winter Fellows.

- Work with the student to design a project (or a task within your own project) that best suits their goals. A successful project will draw on the students' interests and academic/career aspirations, as well as your own areas of specialty.
- Define clear expectations for the project. What would qualify as a successful project for you?
- Define clear expectations for your working relationship. Explain what you expect from the student, and ask what help and support they expect from you.
- Decide when and how you will meet or communicate with your student. Establish a schedule of meetings, and stick to it.
- Consider any required training that students may need to complete their research tasks. It might be useful to instruct them in lab protocols, or to show them how to use online databases, before the winter begins.
- Be prepared for students to begin working when they arrive, and have things ready for them to do.
- Work with your student on their presentation for the Winter Showcase that will take place in February. You might have comments on the content as well as the presentation form itself.
- If possible, showcase student work within your department through newsletters, hanging posters or photographs, research talks, etc. This can inspire other students to engage in undergraduate research as well!

If at any time in the process you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Undergraduate Research Program office. We are happy to help!