

PROPOSAL
Inquiry/Research-based Education of Undergraduates
Quality Enhancement Plan
Academic Year: 2007-2008

Part I:

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Proposal Title:

In Vitro Shoot Proliferation of 'Dog Ridge' Grape at American Society for Horticultural Science Conferences

Proposal Funding Categories (Select One):

Inquiry/Research-Based Undergraduate Course Revision or Creation

Field Trip to Enhance Experiential Education for Undergraduates

Travel for an Undergraduate to Conduct or Present Research

Start-up Funds for a New Research Project that Involves Undergraduates

Due Date: February 1, 2008 (funds should be used by August 31, 2008)

For more information, contact:

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Part II: Purpose and Student Benefit of the Project (approximately 1 page single-spaced).

Since January 2007, I have been participating in the Inquiry/Research-based Learning program offered by COALS. Under the guidance of Dr. Dan Lineberger, I have successfully concluded the first part of my research project, In Vitro Shoot Proliferation of 'Dog Ridge' Grapevine.

The American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS), coordinates regional and national competitions for undergraduate research presentations. The 2008 Southern Region ASHS Conference will be held in Dallas, TX on February 2-4. The Joseph B. Edmond undergraduate oral competition will be held during that conference. The 2008 national conference will be held in Orlando, Florida on July 21-24. The undergraduate oral presentation competition will be held during this time.

At both conferences, I will present my research to a varied audience including a panel of experts as well as my peers. I will have the opportunity to practice oral communication skills by preparing a speech and visual aids.

Part III: Budget

For the Southern Region Conference, I will be traveling to Dallas with the TAMU Horticulture Club in Department vehicles, and I wish to be able to compensate the Horticulture Club for part of the travel and hotel expenses.

For the National Conference, we will travel by airplane. As of time of writing, airline tickets for adults from College Station, TX to Orlando, FL costs between \$327 to \$451 dollars (total including taxes and fees). The mean of the costs is \$389.

Date	Expense	Estimated Cost
2/2/08	Dallas Travel Expenses	\$20
2/2/08	Southern Region ASHS Conference registration fee	\$20
2/2-4/08	Hotel Expenses for two nights (\$29.75 per noctem)	\$59.50
2/2-4/08	Meals for three days (\$25 per diem)	\$75
7/21/08	Airline ticket to Orlando, FL	\$389
7/21/08	National ASHS Conference registration fee	\$95
7/21-24/08	Hotel Expenses for four nights (\$50 per noctem)	\$200
7/21-24/08	Meals for four days (\$25 per diem)	\$75
Totals		\$933.50

Part IV: Final Report

Students Impact and Learning Outcomes

One student was directly impacted by the funds received from the proposal. The funds were used to travel to present research “In Vitro Shoot Proliferation of ‘Dog Ridge’ Grape” at the regional and national conferences of the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS).

Unique learning outcomes were granted through this event. This was the first formal presentation of the research the student has conducted. It was an honor for the student to be able to present his research at both the regional and national meetings of the leading society of horticultural science. The student gained incomparable experience in the preparation and presentation of research to a scientific audience. An important point that the student learned was that even though he spoke in oral competitions, they are training events to develop skills. The student also learned how to interact with other presenters, judges and audience members to learn how to continue to develop research and presentation skills.

Also, these were the first scientific conferences that the student has ever attended. The student was exposed to the great networking opportunities that these conferences create. The student was able to meet some of the scientist that he has contacted in the past or whose literature he has reviewed. The student learned that he could attend proceedings, talks, working group meetings and become updated with the current research, technology and opportunities that are available in the field. Also, the student was involved with the undergraduate division of the ASHS, and has been elected officer of both the regional and national collegiate branches.

The funds received allowed the student to develop his presentation skills, as well as gain exposure to the opportunities available through the scientific societies in his field.

Budget Expenditures

Date	Expense	Estimated Cost
2/04/08	breakfast ASHS-Dallas	\$8.10
3/25/08	ASHS National Meeting Registration	\$95
5/7/08	Airline ticket to Orlando, FL	\$332
7/17/08	Transportation from airport to hotel	\$23
7/21/08	dinner ASHS-Orlando	\$3.20
7/22/08	breakfast ASHS-Orlando	\$4.58
7/23/08	lunch ASHS-Orlando	\$13.84
7/23/08	dinner ASHS-Orlando	\$15.00
7/24/08	lunch ASHS-Orlando	\$10.23
7/27/08	breakfast ASHS-Orlando	\$2.55
Totals		\$507.50