Advancing Research Opportunities for Undergraduates through the Provost’s Undergraduate Research Fund and the Steve Norwick Memorial Fund – an invitation for faculty to apply for funds to support student projects

Student research, scholarship, and creative activity capitalize on the strength of the professoriate and add currency to students’ educational experiences in learning through inquiry and in working with faculty. These experiences will become increasingly important as students face competitive career and graduate school environments. An undergraduate scholarship experience helps develop students’ abilities to think logically, write clearly, marshal evidence, and work in teams – all of which are qualities we wish for our graduates.

As a result of generous donor support, the Division of Academic Affairs will be providing twenty, $1,000 awards to support undergraduate scholarship projects. These are broad in scope and all faculty are eligible to apply. Awards will be used exclusively for project-related expenses incurred by the student(s) in the course of the work – typically consumables, small items of equipment, and sometimes travel to an SSU Preserve or research conference to present results and findings. Funds cannot be used for salary or student stipends.

Awards are available across all disciplines. Five of the awards from the Steve Norwick Memorial Fund must include a field component at the Fairfield Osborn Preserve (www.sonoma.edu/preserves/osborn/).

To apply, submit a short description of the proposed scholarship activity in one page or less identifying in broad terms how you plan to spend the money and over what timeframe.

If successful, you will be required to provide a short biography of the student(s) chosen to work, summary of the findings, and list of how the funds were spent. While it is not a requirement, there is an expectation that the funded work will result in a student poster or similar presentation.

Please submit your application for funds to David Hartranft, Administrative Coordinator of Academic Programs, (david.hartranft@sonoma.edu) by October 7, 2013. If the response is overwhelming winners will be drawn by lottery.