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 a student project

Student research, scholarship, and creative activity capitalize on the strengths of the professoriate and add currency to students’ education. Experience in learning through inquiry and in working with faculty will become increasingly important as students face an increasingly competitive career and graduate school environment. An undergraduate scholarship experience helps develop students’ ability 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 thirty-five, $1,000 awards to support undergraduate scholarship projects. These are broad in scope and all faculty are eligible to apply. Awards must be used exclusively for project-related expenses incurred by the student in the course of the work – typically consumables, small items of equipment, and sometimes travel to a research conference to present results and findings. Funds cannot be used to pay for student assistants or for student stipends.

Thirty awards are available across all disciplines while five awards from the Steve Norwick Memorial Fund must be environmental in scope and include a field component at the Fairfield Osborn Preserve www.sonoma.edu/preserves/osborn. To apply, simply submit a short description of the proposed scholarship 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 chosen to conduct the work and a summary of the findings. While it is not a requirement there is an expectation that the funded work will result in a student poster.

Please submit your application for funds to Jo-ann Dapiran dapiran@sonoma.edu by October 10, 2014. It is anticipated that you will spend out the award by June 30, 2015. If the response is overwhelming, winners will be drawn by lottery.

Kind Regards,

Andrew Rogerson
Provost & Vice President

Enlightening Students, Growing Minds, Enriching Lives