Undergraduate Research Grants in the Department of Biological Sciences

Who's eligible:
Any undergraduate student with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher who is doing or planning to do research with a faculty/staff member of the Department of Biological Sciences may submit a research grant proposal.

What's available:
4 research grants at up to $1,500 each.

What's required:

- Letter of support from a faculty/staff member indicating willingness to mentor the undergraduate student in a research laboratory. (This letter should also address the extent to which the student has participated in the writing of the research proposal.)
- Written proposal (approx 6-8 pgs) containing: Hypothesis; Introduction & rationale for project; Methods & scientific approach; Expected results; Anticipated difficulties & their possible resolution; Bibliography; and Budget ($1,500 maximum). Appropriate expenditures include but are not restricted to: research supplies & services, salary, travel expenses, costs associated with attendance at a scientific conference, final poster presentation costs (see below), etc. (The faculty/staff mentor may assist the student in preparing the written proposal.)

Deadline:
Written proposal and mentor's letter of support are due in the Biological Sciences office by 26 November 2012.

Evaluation criteria:
Evaluations will be based on student effort in proposal preparation (evaluated based on mentor's letter of recommendation), the likelihood that the grant will be of benefit to student as well as to the identified UI faculty/staff member, originality of the proposal, and the likelihood of scientific success. Based on these criteria, the Undergraduate Student Affairs Committee will recommend proposals to be funded to the Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, Dr. John Byers.

Notification and activation of successful proposals:
Dr. Byers will notify writers of proposals of the outcome of their grant reviews by the end of December 2012. Successful grants will be activated at the first of the year and the funds may be used over the following 16 months. Any remaining funds not used during that period will be returned to the Department of Biological Sciences.

Final summary:
No later than 16 months after activation of research funds (that is, by the end of the appropriate spring semester), a 3' X 4' poster will be due. This poster should summarize the rationale, methods, results and conclusions from the study. Undergraduate Research Award recipients will participate in the Undergraduate Research Symposium held each spring. The poster will be on display during the symposium and then later in the Life Sciences Building.

For more information: Contact any faculty member in the Department of Biological Sciences.