

Summer Program for Undergraduate Research (SPUR)-Biodiversity Funded by the Alice Waters Thomas Program

SPUR-Biodiversity, modeled loosely after the NSF REU program, is a summer program providing undergraduates with intensive undergraduate research experiences under the mentorship of Pitt Johnstown faculty. Students will work for 8 weeks during the summer on projects exploring the biodiversity of the natural areas on the Pitt Johnstown Campus. Students and faculty will be provided with a stipend and there will be funding for supplies needed to complete the projects. The initiative will accomplish three goals: 1) providing Pitt Johnstown students with an undergraduate research experience, 2) utilizing the campus natural areas for innovative pedagogy and 3) using the Alice Waters Thomas fund to do a second test run of a program that could eventually be sustainable on its own with a combination of extramural and intramural funding.

SPUR-Biodiversity Faculty Requirements

- Faculty members will be responsible for student supervision for 25 hr/wk from May 19th-July 18th 2014 (with the week of June 30th-July 4th off). Faculty will attend weekly meetings with the entire group. These meetings will consist of, but not be limited to, paper discussions, project summaries, and socials.
- Faculty may request two students for their project, but SPUR-Biodiversity can only guarantee one student per faculty member.
- All projects must meet the funding requirements of the Alice Waters Thomas Fund.
 - Proposals fundable by the Alice Waters Thomas Fund encompass specifically undergraduate research with a faculty-student component consisting of ecology or conservation-oriented projects **utilizing the UPJ Campus natural areas**. Funds must be spent during the summer of 2014.
 - Though these criteria may seem to apply only to certain natural science disciplines, the criteria will be broadly applied to include projects in other disciplines involving the natural area in some way. Historical, educational, management or any other approaches are welcome. If you're not sure your idea fits the criteria, contact us.
- Undergraduate research encompasses intellectual, creative and/or scholarly activities in which the student and faculty member have a partnership. Ultimately these projects may be disseminated locally, regionally, or nationally, but the real hallmark of an undergraduate research project is that it allows students a chance to experience their discipline outside of their textbooks. Whether simply mentored or in true collaboration with a faculty member, the experience should allow students to participate directly in the process of their discipline.

Application process: Please write a short (no more than 3 pages) proposal using the attached application and fill out the attached budget sheet. Since the review committee consists of faculty from several divisions, **the proposal should be written for a general audience who do not have specific knowledge of your field**. The **deadline** for proposals for **summer 2014 SPUR-Biodiversity is Friday Mar. 21 at 5 pm**. Submit **1 electronic copy** of the proposal with attached **budget sheet** as an **email** attachment in Microsoft word or PDF file to **Karen Lee (klee@pitt.edu)**. Questions? Concerns? Contact Karen Lee (klee@pitt.edu).

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Title:

Faculty Mentor:

Faculty Email:

Narrative:

Background and Objectives:

Project Plan:

Relevance of the project to the aims of SPUR-Biodiversity

Budget and Budget justification

Instructions: Requested funds must be itemized (when possible) and all amounts must be whole dollars. Discuss budget justification in box where items are listed. Please use additional sheets as necessary.

Estimated number of students and justification (maximum number of two)
Equipment with justification(s)
Subtotal, Equipment: \$
Supplies with justification(s)
Subtotal, Supplies: \$
Total Amount Requested: (not including stipends)\$