

## **Southern California Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry 2010-11 Research Grant Award**

### **Background**

The Southern California Regional Chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SoCal SETAC) is a regional, scientific non-profit organization established to provide a forum for individuals and institutions engaged in the study of environmental problems, management and regulation of natural resources, education, research and development, and manufacturing and distribution in Southern California. The primary goals of SoCal SETAC are:

- Promote research, education, training and development of the environmental sciences, specifically environmental toxicology and chemistry.
- Encourage interactions among environmental scientists and disseminate information on environmental toxicology and chemistry.
- Sponsor scientific and educational programs and provide a forum for communication among professionals in government, business, academia, and other segments of the environmental science community involved in the use, protection and management of the environment and for the protection and welfare of the general public.

In order to encourage young scientists in toxicology and chemistry, SoCal SETAC is offering this grant to students. The grant is meant to provide additional resources for purchase of supplies, equipment, laboratory analysis, travel and other items normally unavailable to young researchers. It is not meant for wage or income.

### **Grant Awards**

Up to \$1,500 per student will be awarded based on minimum qualification criteria and competitive evaluations (see below). Students will have one-year to complete their projects and must present their findings at SoCal SETAC's Annual Meeting (typically held in late spring). Graduate students and undergraduate students may apply, but undergraduate students are particularly encouraged. The work may be completed at the University or outside the University such as their place of employment.

All Grant proposals must arrive no later than 11:59 PM on February 26, 2010. Proposals must be submitted either:

- electronically in pdf format to the Chapter secretary (KPrickett@portla.org), or
- via mail to SoCal SETAC, P.O. Box 1619, San Pedro, CA 90733

### **Minimum Requirements**

- a) Students must be currently enrolled in an accredited college or university.
- b) The work location must be insured.

c) The applicant must have a mentor such as a teacher, faculty member, graduate advisor, or work supervisor. A letter of commitment from the mentor must be included with the application package.

### **Grant Submittal Package**

The grant proposal should be no longer than 8 pages, exclusive of resumes and commitment letter(s) from sponsor(s). The grant proposal package should include the following elements: Applicant information, concept proposal, qualifications and experience, research schedule and cost effectiveness.

#### **1) Applicant information (no more than one page)**

The applicant will need to provide the following information on their cover page:

Title of proposal, submittal date, applicant full name, applicant affiliation, applicant mailing address, applicant email address, applicant phone number, name of mentor, mentor affiliation, mentor mailing address, mentor email address, mentor phone number.

#### **2) Concept proposal (no more than 4 pages).**

The concept proposal should address the following four elements:

Summary of the Problem. The goal of this section is to describe the necessity of the proposed study. Summarize the environmental problem being addressed including previous studies by others, if any. References to the literature would be appropriate. Describe the impact that currently exists, any data gaps that need to be addressed, and/or dilemmas faced by environmental managers.

Proposed Hypothesis or Question to be Answered. State the explicit objective of the proposed work. An expectation of how the results may be analyzed would also be appropriate. Describe what actions, if any, may be taken once the hypothesis or question is answered.

General Study Approach. Describe the study design to be used for answering the hypothesis of study question. This section should be used to introduce your reader to the “big picture”. For example, a description of the chemical and concentrations selected would be appropriate for laboratory-based bioassay. For field based studies, a description and rationale for selection of sample sites might be appropriate.

Study Specifics. Provide details of the study design. Specify methods, procedures, actions and/or measures taken to implement the study. Provide references to methods manuals, standard operating procedures, or previous studies, if appropriate.

**3) Qualifications and experience (no more than 1 page)**

Qualified individuals need to provide some assurance that the work can be completed as proposed. Applicants must provide at a minimum their years of education, current grade point average, outside employment, and volunteer service. Applicants may wish to cite the qualifications and experience of their mentor to supplement their own background. Each application should append the resume(s) of each researcher named in the proposal.

**4) Research schedule (no more than 1 page)**

Each proposal must include a timeline, which will be used to judge the ability of the applicant to manage their workload and complete the project in a timely fashion. The timeline may be in the form of a table or graph such as a Gantt Chart. Whatever the form, it must include beginning and end dates for each task or interim milestone.

**5) Cost effectiveness (no more than 1 page)**

Each proposal must include a budget that defines how the grant funds will be expended. The budget should include an itemized list of supplies, equipment, laboratory analysis, travel and/or other expenses incurred as part of the study. University or company overhead and/or administrative costs should be included as a separate line item. Applicants may use the budget format attached to the end of this RFP.

**Grant Proposal Evaluation**

A team of no less than three scientists who are active members of SoCal SETAC will evaluate each proposal. Each proposal will be scored on a scale of 100 points using the following point allocation:

**Concept Proposal (65 points)**

The concept proposal must be an original piece of work. Scoring will be based on three factors: a) background summary; b) innovation and ingenuity of hypothesis; and c) potential impact on the environmental community.

**Qualifications and experience (15 points)**

Points will be awarded based on years of education, grade point average, outside employment, and volunteer service.

**Research Schedule (10 points)**

Points will be awarded on the ability of each applicant to make realistic estimates of time to complete tasks.

**Cost effectiveness (10 points)**

Points will be awarded on the budgeted allocation of resources. University or Agency overhead will not be counted against applicants.

All proposals will be scored and announcement of award made within four weeks of the proposal deadline. All proposals submitted will be notified as to their award status.

**Proposal Checklist**

- 1) Applicant Information
- 2) Concept Proposal
- 3) Budget
- 4) Mentor Letter of Commitment
- 5) Resume(s)

## SoCal SETAC Student Grant Budget Template

Proposal Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total Cost
List Supplies (reagents, disposable glassware, etc.)		\$	\$
List Instruments (probes, meters, etc.)		\$	\$
List Travel (airfare, hotel, meeting registrations, etc. as a single cost)		\$	\$
Other (additional expenses not included above)			
<i>Subtotal</i>		\$	\$
Overhead (university or agency fees)		\$	\$
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		\$	\$