

## **2016 R.E. TORREY FUND SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 12 noon, Monday, April 11, 2016**

### **Statement of purpose**

The Ray Ethan Torrey Summer Undergraduate Research Scholarship will provide support for an outstanding undergraduate student at UMass-Amherst to conduct a full-time summer research project in the area of plant biology. The goal of the scholarship is to provide students the opportunity to obtain research experience and encourage them to pursue a career in plant biology research. The scholarship will be awarded to a student with a record of academic excellence and a demonstrable interest in plant research.

### **Each scholarship provides the following:**

- \$5,400 student stipend to conduct summer research for a 9 week period\*

### **Eligibility**

Students must:

- be enrolled as a full-time, degree-seeking student at UMass-Amherst
- be involved in a research project involving an aspect of plant biology in the laboratory of a faculty mentor at UMass-Amherst

Preference will be given to junior level students who will conduct their research during the summer between their junior and senior years. Students will be expected to present a research poster at the annual PB symposium in October.

Mentors must:

- be a member of the Plant Biology Graduate Program or involved in plant biology research in the Department of Biology
- have an ongoing research program

### **Selection Criteria**

Student applicants should demonstrate:

- strong motivation for conducting the research
- excellent academic achievement

The faculty member sponsoring the project should demonstrate:

- a commitment to undergraduate education and research
- that the student's project clearly supports the goals of the mentor's research program
- that the project is appropriate for undergraduate research
- that there are adequate facilities to support the proposed work

\*Both student and mentor are responsible for ensuring that the research project is pursued full-time for a 9week period during the summer immediately subsequent to the scholarship award date. Students failing to fulfill this obligation will have the scholarship rescinded and will be billed for recovery by the Financial Aid Office at UMass-Amherst. The scholarship may affect the student's current loan situation since it is administered through financial aid. PB will work with the financial aid office to determine final details for disbursement of the stipend.

## Proposal Evaluation

The proposals will be evaluated by the Graduate Operations Committee of the Plant Biology Graduate Program on the basis of the selection criteria.

**Application materials:** Please send the following materials, as a pdf file to: [pb@bio.umass.edu](mailto:pb@bio.umass.edu)

Student applicant:

- Undergraduate transcripts (unofficial)
- Current GPA
- Major
- Current year and expected date of graduation
- Arrange for two letters of recommendation: one from the mentor, and one supporting- to be sent directly to the PB Program via email ([pb@bio.umass.edu](mailto:pb@bio.umass.edu))
- Project description and personal statement (2 pages maximum)

Part 1 –Project description (~1.5 pages)

The project description should include a short introduction to the research topic, the hypothesis or biological question to be investigated, and the specific aims of the project with expected outcomes. The specific aims should include an overview of the experimental plan, but a detailed description of experimental methods should not be included.

Part 2 –Personal statement (~0.5 pages)

The personal statement should address how the research project will enhance the educational and career goals of the student.

Mentor and supporting recommendation- should be emailed separately as pdf files:

- Letter of recommendation for the student applicant including a statement of how the student's project is integrated into the mentor's overall research program, a confirmation of facilities necessary to perform the research, and a mechanism for supervision of the student during the project period. (2 pages maximum)

**The deadline for all application materials is 12 noon, Monday, April 11, 2016. Send pdf files to [pb@bio.umass.edu](mailto:pb@bio.umass.edu)**

If materials cannot be sent via email, they should be delivered by the deadline to:

PB Program

Torrey Scholarship

202 French Hall

University of Massachusetts Amherst