

2017 TTUAB GRANTS-IN-AID COMPETITION

General Information: TTUAB announces the 2017 Grants-In-Aid (GIA) competition. Ten (10) grants will be awarded in the amount of \$700 each. Grants will be awarded (tentatively) by the end of the Spring 2017 semester and will expire after 1 year. Winners of the competition will be required to acknowledge the TTUAB GIA award in all subsequent publications to which the funding contributed. Winners must also turn in a formal letter by June 1, 2018 to the current TTUAB President stating how the money was utilized for the project, at which conferences the research was presented, and any publications for which the funding was utilized. Failure to comply with report requirements will result in loss of future eligibility. The TTUAB GIA Committee will administer and oversee the competition; please contact Howie Huynh (howard.huynh@ttu.edu) with any questions and/or concerns.

Eligibility Requirements: As per By-Law V, sec. 2, only Full TTUAB members qualify for TTUAB grant awards. This requirement includes presenting at TTABSS, and completion of ~75% of your service hours for TTUAB by May 1, 2017.

-----PROPOSAL GUIDELINES-----

Proposal format: Proposals should be written in a style intended for a general scientific audience. The proposal body has a 3-page limit (NOT including Literature Cited); Budget and Justification has a 1 page limit. Formatting guidelines include 1" margins, 10 pt. Arial font or higher, and no less than single-spaced (line spacing).

Proposal content must include:

1. **Title** – Should be informative but brief; please include full name in the header. Include which category you request your proposal to be submitted to: Cell and Molecular, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, or Systematics. Each proposal will be assigned to one of these categories.
2. **Specific Aims** – No more than 1 page. In this heading, the researcher must briefly describe the project and put forth the project hypothesis along with the specific aims.
3. **Broader Impacts/Significance** – Provide a brief background and why and how this research project would advance the field.
4. **Approach** – Provide a moderately detailed approach along with the reasoning behind the approach, expected outcomes, and alternative approaches.
5. **Budget & Justification** – A moderately detailed budget of no more than 1 page is to be included and will NOT count towards the 3-page limit of the proposal. Students need to provide project expenses, indicating specific categories (e.g., equipment, travel, supplies) and how this will facilitate and assist the approach outlined. Any current and pending funding for the project must also be disclosed.
6. **Literature Cited** – This will NOT count towards the 3-page limit for the proposal. Citations will be by first author last name and if there are only two authors, first and second author's last names. For example: [Blystone et al. 1994] or [Blystone and Butler, 2009]. Within the literature cited, the citations will be listed alphabetically using the following format **only**: Authors. Year. Title of Article. Journal Title. Volume. Pages. Using any other format will result in disqualification and the proposal will not be reviewed.

Blystone, S.D., I.L. Graham, F.P. Lindberg, and E.J. Brown. 1994. Integrin $\alpha V \beta 3$

differentially regulates adhesive and phagocytic functions of the fibronectin receptor $\alpha 5 \beta 1$.

J. Cell Biol. 127:1129-1137.

-----LETTER OF SUPPORT-----

Applicants should ask their academic advisor to write a letter of support addressing the merits of the proposed research as well as the student's qualifications to carry out the work. The letter of support will be considered independent from the overall proposal and is NOT subject to the aforementioned formatting requirements. Advisors should email the letter of support directly to Howie Huynh at the email address listed below.

Please submit proposals and letters of support as .pdf with first initial, last name, and document name (e.g., hhuynh_proposal.pdf, ekitten_reference.pdf) by April 9th, 2017 to Howie Huynh at howard.huynh@ttu.edu. Please include "TTUAB Grant" in the subject line of BOTH emails. Proposals submitted by March 30th will be checked for formatting errors alone and sent back for corrections (if desired); beyond this date, any proposal that does not adhere to required formatting will result in disqualification and will not be reviewed.

-----REVIEW PROTOCOL-----

This year there will be three categories: Cell and Molecular, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Systematics. Each proposal will be assigned to one of these categories. The number of grants funded will be proportional to the number of grants submitted within each category. (E.g., based upon last years' proposals, there would be 2 CMB, 4 EEB, and 4 Systematics proposals funded.) Grants will be awarded to 10 students with proposals determined by faculty from the Department of Biological Sciences at Texas Tech University.

As we have re-implemented the category process, each reviewer will be assigned as the primary reviewer on up to 3 proposals and the secondary reviewer on up to 3 proposals. At the end of the review process, reviewers will be asked to submit an evaluation outlining the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal. The proposal will then be given a final score and the proposals will be ranked. An overall critique of the proposal will be given to the student that includes strengths and weaknesses of the proposal and how the proposal can be improved in the future. The GIA committee will then meet, compile and compute all scores (e.g., average scores), and then forward the names of awardees to the TTUAB officers for announcement.