ANNOUNCEMENT OF STUDENT AWARDS

81st Annual Mississippi Academy of Sciences Meeting

February 23-24, 2017

Thad Cochran Center • University of Southern Mississippi • Hattiesburg, MS

The MAS in its commitment to recognize and promote novel student research would like to announce the following prestigious awards:

1. Millsaps/HHMI Undergraduate Scholars Symposium

Honoring Excellence in Science in Mississippi
Symposium Chairman: Timothy J. Ward | Associate Dean of Sciences
Ms. Barbara Holmes: MAS Executive Assistant
Millsaps College, MS

This symposium is intended to expand the scope and depth of opportunities for undergraduate student researchers to meet other student researchers and their mentors as well as to provide a dedicated venue to disseminate and present their research activities. Participation in undergraduate research increases self-confidence, independence, and critical thinking skills. Disseminating one's results by participating in conference symposia develops communication and presentation skills. These experiences create and foster a life-long quest for research and discovery. Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) is the largest private sponsor of education initiatives in the United States and seeks to strengthen science education at all levels of education and is dedicated to increasing the number of people who pursue science-related careers and to broadening access to science for all. Student researchers who have shown outstanding achievement in science and engineering research may be selected by their division chairs to compete for these outstanding awards.

Criteria for Selection of recipients:

1. **Each division chair(s) and vice chair(s) (13 divisions) will select top 20% undergraduate student posters to represent their division and present in the Millsaps HHMI sponsored lunch award symposium, "Honoring Excellence in Science in Mississippi," on Friday February 24th from noon -2pm. Student's name must appear as first author in the abstract, as well as, the poster.**
2. **The nominated students will agree to present their posters (after presenting in their division) in the poster symposium over lunch on Friday from noon – 2pm. Failure to physically present at the respected division, will disqualify the selected presenters to compete in the symposium (must be present to compete and co-author presentation will not be accepted).**
3. **The award prizes will be presented immediately at the end of event as follows: 1st Place: Certificate plus $250; 2nd Place: Certificate plus $200; 3rd Place: Certificate plus $150; 4th Place: Certificate plus $100; and honorable mention for 5th – 10th winners. Each selected presenter will receive complementary one year membership to MAS and certificate of achievement.**

2. Mississippi INBRE Graduate Scholars Symposium

Honoring Excellence in Science in Mississippi
Symposium Chairman: Dr. Glen Shearer | Program Coordinator of INBRE
Event Coordinator: Ms. Jamie Allen | Outreach Director
University of Southern Mississippi, MS

The symposium, sponsored by Mississippi IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE), is intended to promote and recognize meritorious research conducted by graduate students in the fields of science, medicine and engineering. Although housed at the University of Southern Mississippi, Mississippi INBRE is a network of colleges and universities throughout the state. The goal of Mississippi INBRE is to improve the research infrastructure in Mississippi through biomedical research. With a scientific focus on obesity, cancer and STDs, their mission is to improve health in Mississippi and increase the research competitiveness of the state.

Criteria for Selection of recipients:

1. **Each division chair(s) and vice chair(s) (13 divisions) will select top 20% graduate student posters to represent their division and present in the INBRE Graduate Scholars Symposium sponsored lunch award symposium, "Honoring Excellence in Science in Mississippi," on Friday February 24th from 10:00 am -12 noon. Student's name must appear as a first author in the abstract, as well as, the poster.**
2. **The nominated students will agree to present their posters (after presenting in their division) in the poster symposium over lunch on Friday from noon – 2pm. Failure to physically present at the respected division, will disqualify the selected presenters to compete in the symposium (must be present to compete and co-author presentation will not be accepted).**
3. **The award prizes will be presented immediately at the end of event as follows: 1st Place: Certificate plus $250; 2nd Place: Certificate plus $200; 3rd Place: Certificate plus $150; 4th Place: Certificate plus $100; and honorable mention for 5th – 10th winners. Each selected presenter will receive complementary one year membership to MAS and certificate of achievement.**

Call for Abstracts

Submission Deadline: November 15, 2016
250-Word Limit

All Science and Engineering disciplines are welcome.

Submitted abstracts are peer-reviewed. Accepted abstracts are published in a supplement to the annual *Journal of the Mississippi Academy of Sciences*. The annual meeting provides an excellent forum for members to exchange ideas and information. Students will be eligible for awards.

To submit, go to http://msacad.org/submit-an-abstract/submit-on-line