

## **2008 WSSA Committee Report to Members Summary for 2008 and Action Plan for 2009**

**Committee Code and Name:** W3k – Undergraduate Research Award Subcommittee

**Committee Chair:** John Jachetta (jjjachetta@dow.com)

**Board Coordinator:** Ralph Whitesides (ralphw@ext.usu.edu)

**Committee Members Rotating Off:** Both Paul Cavers, University of Western Ontario, and Bill Dyer, Montana State University, rotate off in 2009; both individuals have agreed to reenlist through 2012.

### **2008 Summary of Activities**

Advertisements were placed in several newsletters, including WSSA, ASPP, ASA, APMS, the Regional Weed Science Society Newsletters, as well as Weed Technology, Invasive Plant Science & Management, and the Journal of Natural Resources and Life Sciences. A letter containing the grant announcement was sent to over 400 WSSA educators in September 2008. It's been an off-year for this grant with 5 grant applications received; all were high quality proposals. Applications were reasonably well distributed across the Society and included universities in Colorado, New Mexico, New York, Washington Utah, Virginia, and Washington.

### **What were the committee's goals for 2008?**

The key objective for 2008 was to announce the availability of this research award, accept grant proposals, rank those proposals and select winning applications. Announcement of winning applications is planned for the 2009 WSSA National Meeting Awards Ceremony.

### **List the committee's accomplishments in 2008:**

Awarded 5 undergraduate research grants and encouraged a working relationship between these students and their faculty sponsors.

### **What information was posted on the WSSA website?**

None, we need to work on that.

### **How much funds were requested? How much was spent?**

We had authorization to fund 8 to 10 awards (\$8,000 to \$10,000), however financial circumstances for the Society did change over the year and the full amount was not longer available by the year's close.

### **What was the impact of the committee activities/accomplishments on the following: membership, publication, policy, legislation, and/or education?**

This award's goal is to introduce Weed Science research to undergraduates and create or deepen relationships between these students and Weed Science faculty. In this way, this grant hopes to increase membership through hands-on education and recruitment.

## **What is the current state of the committee's projects and activities?**

On-going (Post-launch, Stage Gate 5)

### **2009 Plan for Committee Activities**

#### **Goals for 2009:**

A key objective for 2009 is to increase the number of applicants. We could actually fund several more awards than were granted in 2008.

#### **Plan of Action:**

Action steps for 2009 include:

1. Announcements will submitted to journals and newsletters in May, 2009 (Jachetta)
2. Grant announcement letters to membership will be mailed in September, 2009 (Jachetta)
3. Grant announcement e-mail reminder to membership in Late September (Jachetta)
4. Grants accepted for review by November 15, 2009 (Jachetta).
5. Grants to committee for review in December 2009 (Jachetta).
6. Funding determinations made by January 15, 2010 (UGRA Committee).
7. Presentation to WSSA at 2010 Awards event (Jachetta).

#### **What is needed to further the goals of the committee/project?**

We intend to make greater use of the WSSA List-serve in 2009 to remind faculty of this resource. The reduction in grant applicants was unexpected, we normally average about 14 and fund 8; we received authorization in 2008 from the Endowment Committee to fund 10; due to financial circumstances, this number may need to be revised in 2009.

### **Recommendations for Board/Society Action:**

**Funds requested for 2009:** \$10,000

**Other requests for the Board:** None