**Request for Proposals
Sophomore STEM Fund
Academic Year 2016/2017**

Purpose: This call seeks to connect sophomores with research experiences that will develop their skills and prepare them to pursue research early in their careers at UCR. Faculty are asked to create a three-quarter learning experience, outlining the overall research goals and the duties to be undertaken by the sophomore researcher. Successful proposals will be funded at $750 for supplies and equipment (S&E) per quarter to the faculty member for research-related expenses in the lab. The student can be involved in a team project or work independently with clear expectations of progressively responsible duties. The activities should demonstrate mentorship in the development of skill sets that prepare student to undertake larger responsibilities in the lab, or prepare them to be competitive for scholarships and awards later in their undergraduate careers.

The Sophomore STEM research opportunities will be posted on the Undergraduate Research Portal. Student Success Programs will work to promote the opportunity to targeted students.

A successful match will result in a student gaining research experience while contributing to the goals of the research lab. Students will be required to enroll in at least one unit of 19X research credit each quarter of the project. After completion of the project the student may continue working in the lab, in which case the student will be eligible to apply for their own minigrant ($1,000 for research related expenses) at a future time and will be given priority consideration. Students who complete the work assignment and move to another lab will have skill sets that can help them to be competitive for other research and scholarship opportunities.

Award: $750 in S&E per quarter awarded to faculty to support yearlong mentorship of a Sophomore STEM student. Funds may be used to support research related expenses (Supplies, materials, research related travel). Priority consideration will be given to underrepresented, low income, first generation STEM students.

Award Period: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017.

For more information, please contact: Gladis Herrera-Berkowitz, Director of Student Success Programs, E-Mail: gladis@ucr.edu .

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES:

- 1 page proposal that provides:
    - A brief description of research conducted in the lab.
    - Learning goals that the sophomore researcher will gain.
    - Mentorship that will be provided (i.e. engagement in lab meetings, professional development opportunities, once a quarter meeting with the faculty mentor, etc.).
    - Expected learning outcomes at the end of the 3-quarter assignment.
- An Undergraduate Research Portal job posting that is focused on 2nd year STEM students with expectations that can be met in up to three quarters. The posting should include:
    - Brief description of research focus
    - Clearly defined expected duties
    - Hours of expected commitment
    - Timeline for completion of the project
    - Minimum requirements (e.g. completion of prerequisite course work, gpa)
    - Contact name for submission of resume or scheduling of an interview.
- Department MSO/CFAO contact information (name, title, email) and account number.

Conditions of the Award:

- The research opportunity must be posted on the Undergraduate Research Portal and designated Sophomore STEM Fund Project.
- The selected student must be:
    - A sophomore (one year of undergraduate study or units equivalent to sophomore status (i.e. 46 to 90 units)
    - Cumulative GPA of 2.8 or above
    - STEM major
- At the start of the funded quarter faculty must notify Student Success Programs when a student is engaged in a Sophomore STEM Fund Project, providing the name, major, SID, and a completed and signed 19X research units form.
- Students must work in the designated lab for a minimum of 9 weeks at 10 hours per week for the quarterly funding to be awarded.
- In consultation with the faculty mentor Sophomore STEM Fund students must submit a one or two paragraph quarterly report to Student Success Programs outlining knowledge and skill sets learned in the lab for the quarter. The report should also provide indication if the work will continue for the following quarter

and the expected goals.   The submitted report should be cc'd to the faculty mentor.
- Sophomore STEM Funded students must either present their research experience at a poster session during the Undergraduate Symposium in April 2017 or participate in information workshops promoting the Sophomore STEM Fund experience during winter and/or spring 2017.

Selection Criteria for Sophomore STEM Funding:

- Quality of proposed research opportunity
- Degree of meaningful collaboration with a faculty mentor/lab team
- Extent to which research objective is achievable within the proposed timeline (up to 3 quarters)

Proposal Submission Deadline:

May 16, 2016

Please send the proposal electronically to Gladis Herrera-Berkowitz at gladis@ucr.edu