The National Collegiate Honors Council Portz Fellowship

The Portz Fellowship program was launched in 2010 and is supported by the John and Edythe Portz Interdisciplinary Research Fellowship. It is intended to support creative and innovative endeavors that cross boundaries, inviting application from individuals who wish to undertake cross disciplinary research or from a team of two students from different disciplines who propose a single collaborative project. The project will be funded for a period of up to 18 months with the expectation that upon its completion, the Fellowship recipient will make a formal presentation of the research at the NCHC annual conference.

Applications will be accepted January 9 - February 10, 2013. To apply, complete ALL sections of the Portz Fellowship application, available in pdf and word, and submit both the application and letters of recommendation by February 10, 2013.

Honors students in good standing from 2-year colleges or 4-year colleges and universities with current Institutional membership in NCHC may apply at any point in their undergraduate studies. However, given the scope of the research expectation, applicants who are in their final senior term will not be considered. In addition to two letters of recommendation from faculty members, an endorsement from the institutional representative named in the NCHC membership is required. Only ONE PROPOSAL a year from each member institution is permitted.

If you would like more information about the Portz Fellowship, please contact Dr. Patrice Berger at pberger1@unl.edu, or 402-472-5425.

Make a Splash: Be a DIS TEAM LEADER

Interested in a great leadership opportunity that welcomes new students to campus? Apply to be a Destination Iowa State Team Leader! This leadership position is an excellent way to show your Cyclone pride to new students, be part of a team, develop leadership skills, and earn up to $250. Each Team Leader is responsible for leading and mentoring a group of approximately 15 students throughout the Destination Iowa State experience. The time commitment for this position includes two mandatory leadership development workshops, completing a course on Blackboard, and being available for the entire Destination Iowa State program from August 21st-24th, 2013. For more information and the online application, go to https://www.admissions.iastate.edu/leaders/team_leaders.php. Applications are due Friday, February 8th. Questions may be directed to Kasie Von Haden in the New Student Programs Office by e-mailing vonhaden@iastate.edu or by calling 515-294-6660.
Summer REU at Kansas State University

The Kansas State University Center for Sustainable Energy seeks applications for its summer 2013 REU program in sustainable bioenergy funded by the National Science Foundation.

Program Overview: The research you will receive in this program under the guidance of faculty mentors will advance your state of knowledge in sustainable energy. You will participate in “hands-on” experiences with processing agricultural biomass, experiencing the physical environment of industrial-scale biomass processing with all its limitations and opportunities. Students will also meet people that actually perform the work to produce renewable energy in the communities where they live.

The summer 2013 Research Experience for Undergraduates program runs May 28, 2013 – August 2, 2013. Total value of this program is $7,600.00 per student. The application deadline is February 15, 2013.

Accepting applications within these departments:
- Agricultural Economics
- Agronomy
- Biological and Agricultural Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Grain Science and Industry
- Sociology

Eligibility: We accept students from all science, agricultural, and engineering majors and class years. Applicants must be American citizens or permanent residents. First-generation college students, members of ethnic minority groups, females in STEM disciplines, and other under-represented groups are especially encouraged to apply. No previous laboratory or research experience is required.

Program website: http://www.sustainable-energy.ksu.edu/REU

Application link: https://cse.engg.ksu.edu/REU/app

GERON 510 Seminar

The Gerontology Program is trying something new to connect campus students with community adults in a creative way and foster conversations about aging. Community members have been invited to participate in GERON 510, a seminar for advanced undergraduate and graduate students. During this seminar we will discuss two popular books: “Connected: The Surprising Power of Our Social Networks and How They Shape Our Lives” by Nicholas A. Christakis and James H. Fowler and “What Are Old People For?: How Elders Will Save the World” by William H. Thomas. The latter book was inspired by a group of essays entitled “What are People For?”

Students should look forward to some informal, lively conversations about technology, social relationships, and aging in contemporary society.

The class will meet Jan. 16- May 8 with the exception of spring break in the Memorial Union Room 3512 on Wednesdays from 11-12. The first half will cover “Connected” and the second half will cover “What Are Old People For?” The final week will be student presentations, perhaps by community members too if they are interested.

Variable credit is available for the course (1 credit = read and participate; 2 = presentation; 3 = presentation and paper).

NCAA Volunteers Needed

Ames and Iowa State University will be hosting the Big 12 Indoor Track and Field Championships on February 22nd-23rd, 2013. In order to make this event a success the Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau and Iowa State University Athletic Department are looking for a number of volunteers to help us during the meet.

Below is the link with times and events that we are looking to fill:


Volunteers will be provided a t-shirt and meal for their time!
Two upcoming events offer opportunities for you to share your research and to gain presentation experience:

Research in the Capitol is an annual event featuring undergraduate research at Iowa’s Regent Universities. This year’s Research in the Capitol (RIC) will be held on Tuesday, March 26.

ISU students, along with undergraduates from the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa, display posters and describe their research to legislators, reporters and top university administrators, serving as ambassadors to convey the depth and variety of research being done at Iowa State.

Twenty research projects are selected each year to represent Iowa State. Submissions are evaluated by topic, relevance to legislative interests, and geographic representation. Although coordinated by the University Honors Program, all undergraduate students are eligible and encouraged to apply for RIC. Applications may be submitted by individuals or small groups.

If you are interested in presenting your research at Research in the Capitol, please complete the online RIC Abstract Submission form by February 1st.

ISU’s 7th annual Symposium on Undergraduate Research & Creative Expression will take place in the Memorial Union on Tuesday, April 16.
A day-long celebration of undergraduate research, the Symposium provides undergraduates from all academic disciplines with an opportunity to share their research with the university community and other guests through conference-style oral presentations. All undergraduate students involved in mentored research are eligible and encouraged to apply to present their work at the Symposium. Applications may be submitted by individuals or small groups.

Information about the Symposium and the submission process for prospective participants can be found at: http://www.undergradresearch.iastate.edu/symposium/ Applications are due by Friday, February 15.

NSE Program Deadline Approaching

Application deadline for NSE exchange in 2013-14 is February 22.

Iowa State students can spend a semester or an academic year at one of NSE’s nearly 200 colleges throughout the United States, U.S. Territories, and Canada.

Immersion programs in Spanish are available at Puerto Rico universities or French at Quebec universities.

SPECIAL PROGRAM: Alaska Legislative Internship and NSE
NSE participants are eligible to participate in the UAS spring 2014 semester-only Alaska state legislature internship. Students earn 12 credits while working closely with legislators and professional legislative staff. Many Alaskan political topics including natural resource management, the dynamics of state oil, and environmental issues will be discussed at length. The program is well suited to students interested in Politics, Economics, Geography, Environmental Studies, and the Natural Sciences.

You may learn more about NSE at http://nse.org