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**Research Day at the Capitol**

**2011 Guidelines**

**Background**

Research Day will be held on Thursday, March 31, 2011 in the 4th floor rotunda of the State Capitol. This annual event, inaugurated in 1996, was developed to showcase the outstanding undergraduate research being conducted at Oklahoma’s colleges and universities in the areas of science (including social science), technology, engineering, and mathematics. The event is sponsored annually by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), and the National Science Foundation.

**Timeline & Activities**

 Wednesday, December 15, 2010 Deadline for nominations

 Saturday, January 15, 2011 Student training session & tour of State Capitol

 ***Attendance* *Mandatory***

 January 15 – March 29, 2011 Students prepare scientific posters and display units

 Tuesday, March 1, 2011 Students’ revised abstracts, exhibit information, lodging requests, guest names, etc., are due in OK EPSCoR’s Stillwater office

 Wednesday, March 30, 2011

6:30 PM Students arrive at the State Capitol, 4th floor rotunda, and set up displays

 Thursday, March 31, 2011 Capitol rotunda, 4th floor

 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM Posters on exhibit, poster competition\*, students meet with legislators, awards ceremony

**Nominations**

Oklahoma colleges and universities in the state system plus the University of Tulsa are invited to nominate outstanding research projects conducted by undergraduate students on their campuses. Each eligible institution may nominate one research project with the following exceptions: OU-Norman may nominate two; OU Health Sciences Center may nominate two; Oklahoma State University may nominate four; University of Tulsa may nominate two. Nominations are distributed in this manner because some campuses have multiple colleges conducting research.

**Please note: Student nominees must be legal residents of Oklahoma and must be available to attend a mandatory student training session on Saturday, January 15, 2011.** The training session is designed to assist students in the preparation of a scientific poster for Research Day. The lead student on each nominated research project will receive a $250 stipend (one per research group) from Oklahoma EPSCoR to prepare and present a scientific research poster at the State Capitol. Posters will be competitively judged the day of the event by an independent panel. Panelists will select the top research projects to receive cash prizes, as well as a summer research internship valued at $4,000.

Each nomination package must include: 1) a completed nomination form and 2) a research project abstract. Accurate information regarding the students’ permanent home addresses and local school addresses are of special importance. They will be used to help identify the students’ state legislators who will be invited to the event, and ***all stipends or awards must be mailed to the permanent address of record due to state regulations****.*

**Deadline for nominations: Wednesday, December 15, 2010.**

**Nominations may be submitted via fax, email or US Postal Service to:**

Dr. Jim Wicksted Email: james.wicksted@okstate.edu

Associate Director, OK EPSCoR Phone: 405.744.9964

415 Whitehurst Fax: 405.744.7688

Stillwater, OK 74078

**Poster Competition and Awards**

The poster competition will promptly start at 8:30 a.m. and end at approximately 10:45 a.m. on March 31, 2011 during Research Day at the Capitol. A panel of EPSCoR-appointed judges will visit each display as a group. Students should be prepared to present their posters and answer judges’ questions regarding their research.

Posters will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Scientific presentation

 (Clear purpose, hypothesis, background info, results, impact, further study expected)

2. Student’s ability to explain project

3. Visual appearance

4. Clarity for general audiences

5. Societal impact statement

**From the posters presented and judged, EPSCoR will award the following prizes:**

Grand Prize $500 award + $4,000 summer research internship (final project report required)

$2,500 award to the sponsoring college/university lab to offset expenses of hosting the internship

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will be awarded in each of the following two categories:

* Research Intensive Campuses
* Regional & Community College Campuses

1st Place $500 (2)

2nd Place $250 (2)
3rd Place $250 (2)

*NOTE: The student identified as the lead on the project must present their poster in person at Research Day to be eligible for prizes.*

**For More Information:**

If you have any questions, please contact Gina Miller, outreach coordinator, at 405.744.7645 or email gmiller@okepscor.org.