
R.J. McELROY TRUST

STUDENT / FACULTY RESEARCH FUND

Participating Colleges

Clarke University, Dubuque
Coe College, Cedar Rapids
Cornell College, Mount Vernon
Loras College, Dubuque
Luther College, Decorah
Mount Mercy University, Cedar Rapids
University of Dubuque, Dubuque
Upper Iowa University, Fayette
Wartburg College, Waverly

Administered by

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INTERNAL (LUTHER) APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 10, 2019.
Dean's Office, Union 262, deansoffice@luther.edu

Through the generous support of the R.J. McElroy Trust, the Iowa College Foundation (ICF) has established the R.J. McElroy Student/Faculty Research Fund to assist nine member colleges in providing undergraduate research experience.

In the independent colleges and universities of Iowa, undergraduate students are taught directly by experienced faculty members with advanced degrees and years of teaching experience. The professors in these colleges and universities are teaching-centered; their students have the advantage of being taught by teachers engaged in hands-on work with their subjects of expertise. Students develop close apprentice-mentor relationships with professors who often inspire them to pursue meaningful advanced study after college. Students' work often leads them to significant professional opportunities in business, industry, education or government.

Giving students opportunities through research will help them learn skills for professional opportunities that are the benchmarks of every highly qualified professional.

Advantages to Students of the McElroy Student/Faculty Research Fund are as follows:

- **Students become professional researchers as they work with faculty mentors.** To comprehend fully how a research project is conceived and conducted, students will generate a proposal; conduct field or research work, sampling and/or laboratory studies; and periodically report on their research progress.
- **Students learn important research techniques applicable to many fields.** Learning to find and use information appropriately is the greatest skill any undergraduate student can acquire to become competitive in business, industry or education. The breadth and depth of research projects allow students to acquire skills of analysis, synthesis, prioritizing and follow-through.
- **Students have access to sophisticated equipment, giving them invaluable career experience.** Because independent colleges are generally smaller than public institutions, undergraduate student researchers have the opportunity to gain access to and become experts in operating sophisticated equipment generally only available to graduate students in larger institutions. This expertise will give them the edge in the job market after graduation.

- **Students learn firsthand what it means to produce original work.** As projects evolve, they may turn into senior theses or projects that could be publishable and may lead to significant opportunities in their fields.
- **Students learn skills of public presentation.** Ultimately students would present their research findings formally to faculty and other student colleagues at symposia or professional scientific meetings.
- **Skills of collaboration develop; students learn to work with different kinds of people.** Projects are often materially improved by discussions and interaction with other students working on allied projects. Research provides an excellent model for the kinds of collaboration that will be needed in all areas of professional endeavor if the future is to be productive.
- **Through their research projects, undergraduate students often gain access, because of their faculty mentors, to important research facilities not otherwise available to them.** From time to time, as part of their projects, students might travel to particular well-known research libraries, do field work in unusual circumstances, travel to remote observatories if studying astronomy, be introduced to specialized laboratories, or go across country to observe the work of important contributors in their fields. This exploration broadens their perspectives as professionals, citizens and human beings.

The Research Fund is distributed through a centralized application process for students at the participating colleges. ICF solicits grant requests from students to underwrite faculty-supervised research activity that is conducted as part of advanced study in their degree programs. The maximum grant is for \$2,000.

A selection committee evaluates requests and makes selections based on the merits of the proposals. Each student grant recipient with the faculty sponsor is responsible for the approved research project, is expected to participate in a symposium sponsored by the participating colleges and ICF to discuss the project, and is required to submit a final report on the project. ICF consolidates and publishes the reports of the grant recipients. Applications and details of the program are available from the academic dean of the participating member institutions.

THE R.J. McELROY STUDENT/FACULTY RESEARCH PROGRAM

Deadline: April 30, 2019

Title of Research Project _____

College/University _____

Department _____

STUDENT'S PERSONAL DATA

Name _____

Permanent Address _____

Street City State Zip

School Mailing Address _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Grade Level _____ (Junior or Senior) GPA _____ Major GPA _____

Hours completed at time of proposal submission _____

Signature of Student _____ Date _____

FACULTY SPONSOR

Name _____

Department _____ Rank _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Signature of Sponsor _____ Date _____

ACADEMIC DEAN

Name _____

Phone _____

Signature of Dean _____ Date _____

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Application/Eligibility

Students must be entering their junior or senior year in 2019-2020 at one of the following colleges: Clarke, Coe, Cornell, Loras, Luther, Mount Mercy, University of Dubuque, Upper Iowa or Wartburg.

Applications require dual authorship by the proposing student or teams of students (2 or more) and a sponsoring faculty member.

The academic dean of the institution must approve the proposal by letter of endorsement.

Qualifying Activity

The research fund will cover any expenses necessary to support activities defined in a credible research proposal (except faculty stipends). Funds may be requested for specialized hardware or software additions, but funding will not be provided for an entire personal computer system.

Maximum award will be \$2,000.

No student stipend will be paid for credit work. Stipends awarded to students for non-credit work will be funded at a maximum of \$1,000. Again, no faculty stipends are available.

Each proposal must include an itemized budget.

Equipment purchased with funds through a McElroy Research Grant becomes the property of the college.

Should any proposal submitted to ICF require funds from other grant programs, that should be noted as a part of the proposal to ICF. If any such proposal is selected for funding by ICF, the other grants must also be received. If not, the ICF award is invalidated.

Proposal Format

Proposals are limited to four pages plus an information page on the student(s) and sponsoring faculty person. The format proposals must be as follows:

- > Project Description;
- > Methods and Means to be Utilized;
- > Student Activity and Responsibility;
- > Desired Outcomes;
- > Budget and Justification

Review and Selection Process

Proposals will be evaluated by a panel composed of four members, including two faculty members from ICF member colleges. The Panel will define criteria for evaluation and awards.

Notification of awards will be sent to recipients and to the deans of the colleges. ICF will distribute funds to deans for disbursement to recipients as needed.

Summary of Findings

Each student recipient will be required to prepare a one-page summary of his or her findings.

Participating faculty and students will be invited to attend a symposium where their project results will be presented.

ICF will provide final reports regarding the research projects annually to the R.J. McElroy Trust.

Schedule of Events 2019-2020

Internal (Luther) deadline for submission of proposals: April 10, 2019.

Final date for project to conclude: March 31, 2020
Symposium for participants: Spring 2020
Student/Faculty summaries to ICF: May 1, 2020
Final report to McElroy Trust: July 1, 2020