



Sigma Xi Succeeds

Chapter Name: Ohio State University

Program Name: Raising Funds from University and Business

Please Provide a Brief Description of the Program:

We have enlisted financial support from the Office of Undergrad Research and 3 biosupply companies to partially underwrite our Chapter's own GIAR competition (we raise > \$2,000 and distribute \$4,000). To fill the gap, this year we initiated a "Campus Campaign" fund through the University that enables faculty and staff to donate an amount, tax-free, from each paycheck to our GIAR program. We also enlist postdoctoral fellows from the sciences and engineering to help us judge the 50-70 GIAR applications that we receive each year.

We have enlisted the financial support of the VP for Research and 4 other offices (from her suggestions), totaling \$3,000. These funds enable us to honor undergrad and grad winners of the major science and engineering research forums by inviting them to our Chapter's Annual Banquet at the Blackwell Hotel on campus and recognizing their achievements.

Target Audience:

Chapter Members

Non-members at Institution

What is the frequency of the event?

Annually

What are the goals of the program?

The goals of this program are to support our local GIAR program and student attendance at the Annual Banquet. We also nominate the science and engineering forum winners for membership in Sigma Xi. All 5 university offices who support students to attend the Banquet appreciated that we are enriching students' experiences. They see this as a special recognition for their accomplishment. The postdoctoral fellows appreciate the chance to hone their reviewing skills. We nominate them for membership, also.

How do you publicize for the program?

Through Sigma Xi Communities

The campus daily email summary

What advice would you provide to other chapters if they are interested in implementing this program? In other words, what worked for your chapter and what didn't?

Ask the well-funded investigators in your chapter to approach instrument or reagent-supplying companies with whom he/she does business for support for GIARs to undergrads and grad student. They are always sympathetic and often will respond positively. One of our sales reps who has championed our cause to her boss was herself the recipient of a GIAR award from Sigma Xi. They're everywhere! And invite them to the Banquet. Some will come and really enjoy it!

Talk to your VP for Research about what Sigma Xi is and what it does, particularly on your campus. They will get excited. Ask them for support so that your Chapter can honor their best research students. Sigma Xi does honoring well. In addition, you will bring the students together with other science and engineering students and faculty from all over the university who they would never meet otherwise. And ask your VP for Research what other office and who else you should contact. Contact them, telling them how much the VP has given. In most cases they will match the amount. They truly want to enrich the student experience. Our VP for Research went so far as to offer co-sponsorship for the ""Student Innovator of the Year Award"" which our Chapter now proudly supports.

How is the program funded?

Local dues, Institutional support
External Sponsorship

Do you feel you have achieved those goals? How do you assess that? Surveys, feedback, attendance rate...etc.

We increased the level of support for our GIARs from \$500 to \$1,000 for grad GIARs, and from \$300 to \$500 for undergrad GIARs in 2015. We continue to search for ways to increase the value of the GIARs and the number that we can award. Our next targets are local science-based companies. We have not collected feedback systematically. Our Banquet attendance is between 55 and 85, and the food is always excellent. Every student, faculty member and administrator can get behind GIAR support for student research. We are contributing to the research enterprise. Even students who don't win a GIAR have gained practice in communicating his/her ideas, an essential skill for scientists and engineers. GIAR winners have the added bonus of feeling that maybe, just maybe, they could make it as a scientist, living by grant support.

Other Comments

Let me know if you have any questions.