Twila Okken Undergraduate Research Award
Summer 2014

The purpose of the Okken Undergraduate Research Award is to stimulate interest in chemistry and biochemistry among junior and senior students through a paid summer research experience in a faculty member's laboratory. The fellowship for 2014 is $4,000 paid for a 10-week research experience. It is expected that the Okken Fellow will devote her/himself full-time to the project (i.e., the Fellow may not be enrolled in courses or have outside employment). One fellowship will be awarded this year. The fellowship is open to chemistry or biochemistry majors who will be entering their junior or senior year at SDSU (i.e., you are a sophomore or junior at the time of submitting an application).

Identifying a Research Project

You should seek a research project that fits both your current interests and your long-term career goals. Identify a faculty member whose work interests you by one or more methods, such as reviewing professors’ research programs on the department website, or discussing research opportunities with your course instructors or advisor. When you find a project that interests you, feel free to call or email the professor. You will then sit down with the professor and discuss research opportunities and if a good match exists, you and the professor will prepare a research outline to guide the project.

Application Requirements

A complete application consists of the following:

• A project proposal prepared with the faculty member with whom you want to work (maximum length: 2 pages)
• A letter (maximum length: 2 pages) explaining your interest in chemistry or biochemistry, your career goals, and your expectations of involvement in a research project
• A copy of your plan of study (the courses you expect to complete for your degree). You should contact your academic advisor for help in preparing this plan which can be the department’s Program Status Review (PSR) form.
• A copy of your transcript

Interested students should submit applications to the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry office at the address below by Friday March 14 2013.

Okken Undergraduate Research Award
Dept. of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Box 2202 SAV 131
Brookings, SD 57007-0896

Awards will be announced by the end of spring 2014 semester. The recipient will perform his/her research experience in summer, 2014.

For additional information contact Dr. David Cartrette via email: david.cartrette@sdstate.edu