



September 1, 2011

Dear Weed Science Educator:

Here is a great opportunity that will benefit both you and your 2010/2011 undergraduate students. This would be a perfect time to invite your students to consider conducting an undergraduate research project through the WSSA Undergraduate Research Award. Please be proactive with this opportunity; *you are the only link a student has with this research grant* and this program can only work through your active outreach and participation.

The goal of this grant has always been to encourage outstanding undergraduate students to pursue graduate studies in Weed Science. There are a number of obvious benefits that can be discussed with potential applicants, including:

1. An opportunity to become closely associated with an active Weed Science research program,
2. The valuable association with a Weed Science professional,
3. An opportunity for letters of recommendation for graduate school, and
4. A significant resume entry.

There are also direct benefits for faculty sponsors, as this grant can provide a source of prospective graduate students and employees, not to mention needed research assistance.

Please encourage students to take advantage of this grant through announcements in your Weed Science classes as well as other relevant courses, such as Plant Physiology, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Crop Science, Horticulture, Agronomy, Soils, Range Management and Ecology. Please post the attached announcement in a conspicuous place and share a copy of it with other faculty members who may be interested. To assist you in recruiting new students, a grant summary containing all the information required to submit a short proposal is attached. I have also included a listing of last year's winners to post with this announcement as inspiration and encouragement.

Special note: WSSA has prepared a high quality Career Brochure that illustrates the many types of professional opportunities available in Weed Science. I'm sure that this will be of interest to your students and this brochure is suitable for distribution in your undergraduate classes. We would be very please to send you as many copies as you find useful, just send our Executive Secretary, Joyce Lancaster, a note at [jlancaster@allenpress.com](mailto:jlancaster@allenpress.com) and tell her how many you need and where to send them.

Thank you for your involvement in our future!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Jachetta'.

John J. Jachetta, Ph.D.,  
Past-President, Weed Science Society of America  
WSSA Undergraduate Research Award Subcommittee Chair

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## WSSA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD - 2012

The Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) has developed an Undergraduate Student Research Grant designed to encourage and involve exceptional undergraduates in agricultural research. Interested faculty members are encouraged to identify potential award candidates and discuss the possibility of sponsoring a research project. Awards may be used as a stipend, for research budget expenses (travel, supplies, etc.), to defer fees, to defray living expenses for summer research, or any combination of these items.

**AWARD:** Up to \$1000 for support of undergraduate research to be conducted over a minimum of one quarter/semester during 2012. This award may be used to defray the cost of research supplies or as a stipend. Support of a faculty sponsor is required. Awards will be made to the student, to be administered by the faculty sponsor's department.

**APPLICANT:** The applicant is an undergraduate student with a strong interest in Weed Science. Students majoring in all related disciplines may apply.

**TO APPLY:** Applicants should prepare a 2-3 page research proposal including name, address, phone number, E-mail address, title, objective, experimental approach, discussion, budget and references. The discussion section of the proposal should describe the expected results and their possible significance to Weed Science. The student should provide a cover letter in which general academic and career goals are discussed. A copy of the student's academic transcripts must also be provided.

**FACULTY SPONSOR:** Any faculty member who is actively engaged in Weed Science research is qualified to be a sponsor. The faculty sponsor should review the research proposal with special attention to the budget; the distribution of funds should be approved by both the student and sponsor. In addition, the sponsor should provide a letter of reference including a statement of his/her willingness to supervise the proposed research and to provide any needed space, equipment and supplies above those requested in the proposal. The sponsor is encouraged to assist the student in presenting his/her results at a regional Weed Science Meeting.

**HOW TO APPLY:** The completed proposal, academic transcripts, cover letter and faculty letter of support should be forwarded to: Dr. John Jachetta, Dow AgroSciences, 9330 Zionsville Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1054; Phone: (317) 337-4686, Fax (317) 337-4649, E-mail: [jjjachetta@dow.com](mailto:jjjachetta@dow.com). Proposals should be received no later than November 11, 2011. Funding decisions will be made by January 27, 2012 and presented at the 2012 WSSA National Meeting Awards Ceremony.

## **Weed Science Society of America**

### **2011 Undergraduate Research Award Grant Winners**

1. John Miskella, Oregon State University. Proposal: Determining whether a population of Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) contains multiple biotypes. Sponsor: Dr. Andrew Hulting
2. Keri L. Caudle, Fort Hays State University. Proposal: Does soil nitrogen facilitate invasive potential? Effects of NO<sub>3</sub> concentration on N uptake rates, assimilation, and photosynthesis in native and introduced grasses. Sponsor: Dr. Brian Maricle
3. Kai Branden Kosog, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Proposal: Evaluation of weediness traits in *Amaranthus* using recombinant inbred lines. Sponsor: Dr. Pat Tranel
4. Justin Bricker, University of Florida. Proposal: Modeling of the population dynamics and impact of the exotic weevil *apocnemidophorus pipitzi* on the invasive Brazilian Peppertree, *Schinus terebinthifolius*. Sponsor: Dr. James Cuda
5. Ariel Saffer, Cornell University. Proposal: Effect of water availability on seed germination and seedling emergence of the invasive vines, pale swallow-wort and black swallow-wort. Sponsor: Dr. Antonio DiTommaso
6. Jacob Schindler, Auburn University. Proposal: A novel approach to kudzu control; Gas injection as a method to asphyxiate kudzu roots. Sponsor: Drs. Stephen Enloe, Julie Howe, & Navin Kumar Twarakari
7. Krystal Kappeler, Colorado State University. Proposal: Determining taxonomic identity of invasive Japanese Knotweed populations in the Colorado Front Range . Sponsor: Dr. Sara Ward
8. David Reif, Michigan State University. Proposal: Evaluation of management strategies and host ranges for field dodder (*Cuscuta* spp.) in Michigan Sugarbeet production systems. Sponsor: Dr. Christy Sprague
9. Ryan Dougherty, Virginia Tech. Proposal: Chemically mediated ecosystem degradation: allelopathic potential of *Ailanthus altissima*. Sponsor: Dr. Jacob Barney
10. Lindsey Kelly, University of Guelph. Proposal: Investigating the synergistic action between chloracetamides and PPO inhibitors resulting in soybean yield loss. Sponsor: Dr. Francois Tardif