The SPS Commitment to Promoting Undergraduate Participation in Research

www.spsnational.org/governance/statements/2008undergraduate_research.htm

The need for students to participate in meaningful, hands-on, open-ended research has become an imperative for completing a robust undergraduate education in physics. SPS provides support for this initiative in a variety of ways, for example:

- **Statement on Undergraduate Research**
  In 2008, the SPS National Council joined with other professional organizations in support of advocating research for undergraduate students and released the following statement on undergraduate research.
  
  "We advocate that every student majoring in physics and/or astronomy engage in a meaningful undergraduate research experience."

- **Summer Research Opportunity Clearinghouse**
  www.compadre.org/student/research/browse.cfm
  Through a partnership with the American Association of Physics Teachers, SPS manages The Nucleus, a collection within the national science digital library, comPADRE. The Nucleus, provides the most complete online listings of summer research opportunities available for undergraduate physics students in its Summer Research Opportunity Clearinghouse:

- **JURP: Journal of Undergraduate Research in Physics**
  www.jurp.org
  The SPS online journal, JURP, is the only peer-reviewed journal devoted solely to the dissemination of work accomplished by undergraduate students and their mentors.

- **SPS Travel Awards and Research Awards**
  www.spsnational.org/programs/awards

  The SPS Travel Award
  - Applications are accepted on a rolling basis
  - Several $200 awards may be made each year for a variety of meetings
  - Awarded to SPS members presenting their research at national professional physics meetings at which SPS has oral or poster sessions
  - Awarded to undergraduates on a first-come first-served basis
The Sigma Pi Sigma Undergraduate Research Award
- Application due November 15
- Several awards of up to $2000 may be made each year
- Awarded to chapters for chapter physics research projects

The SPS Outstanding Student Award for Undergraduate Research
- Applications due March 15
- Two or more awards may be made each year
- Winners received a free trip to attend and present their research at the International Conference of Physics Students (ICPS), usually held in Europe; are invited to give a presentation in an SPS research session at a national physics meeting; and receive a $500 honorarium for themselves and a $500 honorarium for their SPS chapter
- Awarded to undergraduates on the basis of their research, letters of recommendation, and SPS participation