

July 12, 2006

To: Lydia Quijada, SPS Awards  
Society of Physics Students,  
One Physics Ellipse  
College Park, MD 20740

Re: SPS Marsh White Award in 2004  
Build a cosmic ray detector.

Dear Lydia:

We were awarded the Marsh White Award in 2004 in the amount of \$1,195 to build a cosmic ray detector. Most of the parts were ordered in 2004. The students spent that year learning about cosmic rays and worked on assembling the parts. This involved learning about soldering and circuit assembly. While these were useful skills to learn, we were unable to complete the assembly. There were two reasons: 1. The circuit schematics we obtained were ambiguous and incomplete. 2. Over 2004-2005, some students transferred to a 4 year university and a new group of students joined us who were less enthusiastic about the project. Another factor is that we are a Community College and we have limited facilities for this kind of project. Furthermore, students are doing this on their own time and they are not getting any course credit.

In 2006, we've had no physics majors and the project is on hold. We have spent \$729 and I have instructed our Grants Office to return the unused \$466 (see enclosed). I consider the grant to be a partial success since it was a valuable experience for the first year students. Peter Koo who applied for it has gotten his BS in Physics from UC Berkeley and will attend graduate school at Yale in Fall 2006. Once we get some interested physics majors, we'll complete the project using our department funds. I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Ron Armale, Ph.D.  
Physical Science Department Chair  
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