



SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Proposal

Project Proposal Title	Distinguished Alumni Inductions
Name of School	Utah State University
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	7579
Total Amount Requested	\$500.00

Abstract

Utah State University's $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Chapter hopes to unify the connections its on-campus members have with local physics alumni. It will be inviting physics alumni to talk at USU's 2015 $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Induction Ceremony highlighting their life post-USU, current work, and how to make the most out of the undergraduate experience.

Proposal Statement

Overview of Proposed Project

For the 2015 $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Inductions Ceremony the Utah State University $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Chapter would like to invite back a few local alumni to take 10-15 minutes and present about their lives, work, and experiences to the current and newly inducted $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ members. The Chapter has compiled a list of approximately 8 local alumni and will review their current positions within the physics community and extend formal invitations for 2 of these members to attend the 2015 Inductions Ceremony. If the individuals invited are unable to attend invitations will be extended to more individuals from that list until alumni have confirmed. Some of these alumni graduated from USU prior to the establishment of a $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Chapter at USU, if one of those alumni accepts the invitation to the induction ceremony $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Presidency will perform an honorary induction ceremony for those individuals.

The induction ceremony will consist of a formal dinner, presentations from the alumni, the traditional inductions presentation, honorary induction ceremony (if applicable), and USU's ceremonial induction demo. Present will be invited alumni, 2015 $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Inductees, $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ members remaining on campus, and various department professors and friends, approximately 40 individuals in total (30 students, 2 alumni, and 8 professors).

USU's $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Presidency feels that this project will be extremely beneficial for the $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ members on campus to connect with accomplished alumni, hear about their non-academic physics careers, and have physics role models outside of academia. USU has many undergraduates intending to pursue careers outside of academia but being on a university campus they have few role models to look up to in careers of their interest. This will also be a great opportunity for the alumni to meet the newly inducted $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ members who will soon be search for connections to start their careers.

How Proposed Project Meets the Purpose of the Award

This project would make connections between local alumni and new $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ inductees. It would give students an opportunity to network with potential employers and alumni opportunities to keep their connections with USU and $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$. This project is centered on the 2015 induction ceremony and will intrinsically bring greater distinction to the induction ceremony. The attending students will feel the significance of this ceremony and understand the honor of having the alumni present for their inductions. This project would be a great opportunity for our $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ inductees and the success of those inductees is the focus of the $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ organization. This project is worth investing in because it would improve the futures of the inductees, the future physicists.

Plan for Carrying Out Proposed Project

The ceremony will be pitched to the alumni as an opportunity for them to network with upcoming physics graduates and as a service to the university. The chosen inductees into $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ will be invited to be inducted with the knowledge of the honor that these invitations hold. USU typically inducts 10-15 new $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ members and has approximately 10-15 past $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ members present as well. In the induction ceremony each past $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ is given a moment to share their research or experiences with the new inductees. This induction ceremony engages all individuals present and connects the past $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ members, the new $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ inductees, and the returning alumni.

Project Timeline

April 2015– hold induction ceremony

March 2015– select and extend invitations to incoming inductees

February 2015– pick a date (early April), reserve a location and organize details, then extend initiations to the alumni

January 2015– research alumni and obtain contact information

Project Evaluation Plan

Attendance will be taken for the induction ceremony with detailed record keeping of how many individuals are present and what their association is with $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$. A follow up email will be sent to the alumni asking for their input about the induction ceremony; their experience, improvement suggestions, and any other relevant opinions they may have. This information will be given to the advisor and saved for the 2015-2016 $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Presidency for use in future induction ceremony planning.

Budget Justification

The budget for this event is fairly straightforward. The majority of the money will go to paying for catering, which comes with a room reservation. In order to set the atmosphere of distinction and prestige that this event deserves the event will be held in one of the formal dining rooms at the university and catered by university catering. The cost for the reservation and catering is factored into the price the university quotes for dinner and is based on number of attendees. Beyond that there will be a small gift purchased for the alumni in attendance as a thank you for sharing their time with the USU $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Chapter. This is an important way to show gratitude to these individuals for sharing their time and knowledge with the $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Inductees. The remainder of the budget will be used to purchase the supplies for USU's annual induction demo. This is a simple and inexpensive yet a dearly held tradition for the USU $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Chapter. All these elements come together to create a prestigious event for the new $\Sigma\pi\Sigma$ Inductees to welcome them into the honors society.