

Establishment of and Guidelines for the Charles and Lisa Bloomer Research Stipend

I. Introduction

The SMAB establishes the **Charles and Lisa Bloomer Research Stipend**, named after Dr. Charles Bloomer and his wife Lisa, who have been ardent supporters of the SMAB and the science and math programs at McMurry University. The Bloomers reside in Abilene, where they continue their unwavering support of McMurry. The SMAB extends its sincere appreciation to Charles and Lisa for their outstanding contribution to the SMAB and McMurry at large.

II. Description

The Charles and Lisa Bloomer Research Stipend may be awarded by the SMAB up to once each calendar year for a maximum amount determined by the SMAB (currently \$1750). The stipend will allow a student to work on a research project or other project for the betterment of one of the departments in the McMurry academic organization, which includes the natural and computational sciences. The purpose of the Stipend is to recognize significant educational achievement and to promote the application of math and science concepts in practical situations.

The Stipend will pay a rate determined by the SMAB (currently \$10/hour) for up to 10 hours per week until the award amount is exhausted. McMurry will withhold taxes as necessary from the stipend (i.e., the stipend is gross instead of net). The stipend may also cover the cost of approved materials and supplies, not exceeding the total amount awarded. Questions regarding the disbursement of the funds will be referred to the SMAB faculty liaison.

III. Administration

Candidates may be nominated by a sponsoring professor by submitting the Charles and Lisa Bloomer Research Stipend Nomination Form to the SMAB faculty liaison, on or before a negotiated date before the SMAB spring semester meeting. Each nomination must meet the minimum requirements set forth below and ideally address as many potential evaluation criteria as possible so that the SMAB will have adequate information to base its decision. The SMAB will strive to make decisions at its spring semester meeting, but may also choose in any manner permitted by the SMAB Bylaws.

Although there is no formal limit on when a project must commence, unused funds will be withdrawn if the recipient fails to meet the minimum requirements or completes the project. Stipend funds not used after one calendar year from the approval date will be withdrawn. Students who are awarded a stipend but change research projects will be required to withdraw.

The SMAB will verify the account balance before selecting and awarding the project.

Each project must be sponsored and overseen by at least one professor from a department in the McMurry academic organization that includes the natural and computational sciences,

reviewed as necessary by the SMAB faculty liaison, and managed by the SMAB.

IV. Minimum Requirements

- A. Candidate must be a math or science major
- B. Candidate must be enrolled at least as a full-time student (if the project is for summer work, the candidate must have been full-time the preceding semester)
- C. Candidate must be in good standing with McMurry
- D. Recommendation must include the purpose and description of the work project, including the candidate's responsibilities
- E. Upon completion of the project, the candidate must provide the SMAB with a final deliverable, the content of which will be determined by the SMAB

V. Potential Evaluation Criteria (holistic and non-binding; not in any order)

- A. Grade Point Average
- B. Leadership ability, actual and potential
- C. Level of instructional talent, as compared to other/former students
- D. Classification/Grade Level
- E. Character, as related to McMurry's core values
- F. Dedication and commitment to McMurry and higher education in general
- G. Service – involvement at the McMurry, local, state, and/or national levels
- H. Extracurricular activities and interests
- I. Need for assistance

VI. Amendment and Restrictions

The SMAB may change the requirements, administration, and/or criteria for the Stipend by simple majority vote of its members and by its Bylaws.

The SMAB may choose not to approve a Stipend in a given year, depending on the number and quality of nominations received or the fund balance available.