

Award Incentive Program for Plant Sciences Graduate Students

What It Is

In 2004, Plant Sciences Faculty and donors established a Plant Sciences Departmental Account that allows us to reward the exceptional efforts of PS graduate students who win monetary prizes for oral and poster presentations at Regional, National, and International professional meetings. The Award Incentive Program will match up to \$300, monetary prizes awarded to PS graduate students.

Why It Was Established

- This program is intended to promote Professional Association membership and encourage student participation in oral & poster competitions at Regional, National, and International professional meetings (*a list of several organizations that extend these types of opportunities is included below*)
- As peers, PS Faculty would like to acknowledge the exceptional accomplishments of our graduate students
- We expect this program to help showcase the successes of the PS Department

Current Limitations:

This new program has limited resources from which matching award funds are drawn. At least initially, we must limit the program.

- At present, only Plant Sciences MS and PhD Students whose Major (advising) Professor is from Plant Sciences are eligible for matching awards
- The Plant Sciences Department Account will match individual awards up to \$300 per year per student project
- In the case of team-projects, award match applies only to the presenter
- Matching funds do not apply to Department, Institute or University awards
- Matching funds do not apply in the case of travel, scholarship or fellowship awards
- At least initially, awards from State-based professional associations are not eligible to receive matching funds
- Currently we limit awards to 3 per student on *separate* projects undertaken during each graduate Plant Sciences degree program

How It Works:

- PS graduate students must win a cash award for an oral or display presentation given at Regional, National, and International professional meetings
- Students who win awards should work with their Major Professor and the PS Graduate Director to initiate the “match” process with the help of the PS department business manager
- Miscellaneous income sources (per individual) are legally limited to \$300 per year
- The award must be taxed as income

- If the recipient is an active UT employee (student worker or on-assistantship) they must be paid via the UT Payroll System using an Additional Service pay form. Taxes are applied as the award is regular income
- If the recipient is not a UT employee, they must submit a T-27 form through the Plant Sciences Accounting Office

Professional Associations that sponsor Student Awards Competitions:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Society for Horticultural Science* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Region ASHS • Weed Science Society of America* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Region WSSA • American Society of Agronomy* • Entomological Society of America* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Region ESA • International Plant Propagator's Society* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern & Eastern Regions IPPS • Southern Nursery Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop Science Society of America* • American Oil Chemists Society • Soil Science Society of America* • Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences • American Phytopathological Society* • American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta |
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**Other opportunities may exist regionally, nationally, and internationally.*