

Society of Physics Students
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, LA 71497
June 11, 2005

American Institute of Physics
One Physics Ellipse
College Park, MD 20740

Dear American Institute of Physics

The Northwestern State University chapter of the Society of Physics Students would like to thank the American Institute of Physics for the Marsh White award. In accordance with the conditions on which the S.P.S. offers the Marsh White Awards to provide funding for outreach activities, the Northwestern Chapter submits the following report detailing our progress and expenditures for review.

Marsh White Report

The Northwestern Chapter of the S.P.S. has delayed the construction of its outreach project, a functioning trebuchet, until the fall of 2005. Our decision to postpone construction of a functioning trebuchet results from a concern expressed by several faculty members from the contacted schools. Their primary concern resulted from their classes' completion of their study of mechanics earlier in the academic year. As a result, the faculty felt that participation in the competition would benefit their students more if introduced in the early fall of the following academic year. They believed that the competition involved in designing a better trebuchet would encourage further motivation and interest among their students towards the subject of mechanics if the competition were introduced in conjunction with the appropriate lessons. Since the interest and participation of the high school students involved in the project is more the goal of the competition than the construction of the trebuchet itself, our chapter has agreed to wait until the high schools begin their mechanics lessons next fall to proceed accepting designs and constructing a trebuchet.

Though arrangements have been made for purchasing the materials to be used for the trebuchet, it was decided in light of the decision to postpone the project that the bulk of our expenditures should also await the fall semester. As a result, the only expenses thus far incurred by the project have resulted from minor travel expenses and promotional/informative handouts distributed to participating schools. Both because of the relative insignificance of the travel expenses and their omission from the original grant proposal, none of the funds granted by the Marsh White award have been applied for this purpose. Furthermore, the media on which the promotional packets were printed was provided by the physics department with no expense to our chapter and has therefore also been ignored in the report. As a result, the funds provided by the Marsh White award have not yet been accessed and remain at the total amount. The completion of the project and the use of the funding shall therefore await the coming fall semester, after which time our chapter will provide a second report including all associated expenditures and an evaluation of the project's effectiveness (ie. number of participants, number of design submissions, future plans for the project's final product). With the completion of the project still pending, the Northwestern chapter asks that it be allowed to send a second report reviewing our project's completion later this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James N. Wilson". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and legible.

James N. Wilson