



SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Proposal

Project Proposal Title	An Emphasis on Physicists – Past, Present, and Future
Name of School	Missouri Southern State University, Joplin, MO
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	564
Total Amount Requested	\$500.00

Abstract

We propose to host a Sigma Pi Sigma induction ceremony and alumni gathering, bringing together our past and present students, members of the honor society, new inductees, faculty, staff, and professionals. Our intent is motivating current students by highlighting and celebrating the success of our graduates.

Proposal Statement

Overview of Proposed Project

- **Background and motivation:** 2017-2018 proved to be an incredibly important year for the MSSU chapter of SPS. We effectively represented science and scientific thought to our local community through various on/off campus activities. Our club members actively participated in all events, gained valuable experience on effective ways of communicating science, evolved as amazing leaders and efficient contributors. Because of all the hard work and volunteering, our club received three awards from the Registered Student Organization on campus – Emerging Leader of the Year, Emerging Organization of the Year, and Advisor of the Year. We are so determined and motivated to continue the momentum this academic year and, in the future, and constantly strive for an exponential growth of our chapter of SPS. Hosting Alumni meeting is one of the proposed activities for this academic year, which will highly benefit the current students as they get to interact with the graduates about their experience at current workplace, grad school, research experience etc.
- **Brief description** – We will be hosting a “Sigma Pi Sigma induction - Alumni gathering” event in April 2019. We will extend an invitation to all our alumni and Sigma Pi Sigma members for the event. All the current students, faculty, staff, administrators from the university and local industry personnel will be invited for the event.
- **Goals of the project** – This event will bring together all the past and present students, enhance one-on-one interactions as they share their personal experiences as a student. This will motivate the current students and will serve as an informative session as they plan on their next steps.
- **Intended audience** – This gathering will directly impact the current students and give them a better perspective of the things that lie ahead and help them prepare well to face current challenges and future endeavors. This project will also impact the department and all the alumni as it encourages professional contacts, networking and collaboration.

How Proposed Project Meets the Purpose of the Award

The proposed project will meet various aspects of the purpose of this award.

- This event is a great opportunity in bringing together the entire Physics community in the area and will raise awareness of the National Physics Honor Society – Sigma Pi Sigma.
- This is an excellent platform for our students to make professional contacts and collaborate with local industries.
- It is also a moment of pride and honor for the inductees to get inducted in front of the local Physics community.
- This aspect will strongly encourage many students to get inducted to the honor society.
- We will also use this event as a fundraising opportunity which will facilitate scholarships and awards.

Plan for Carrying Out Proposed Project

- **Personnel** – The SPS office bearers (Toby Pederson - President, Matthew Cruzan – Vice-President, Cade Hensley - Secretary and Grant Cornwell - Treasurer) will oversee planning the event, assigning roles, inviting personnel and execution of the project. SPS advisor Dr. Jency Sundararajan and the chair Dr. James Donelson will be monitoring the progress of the project and will assist/guide us in every step.
- **Marketing** – We will be advertising the event via posters and handouts on campus. We will be effectively using the social media to reach out and cover the maximum audience. Some of our alumni are currently employed in local industries like EaglePicher, Leggett & Platt and Empire Electric, who will serve as our ambassadors in advertising the event.
- **Sigma Pi Sigma member participation** – So far, we inducted 10 members to Sigma Pi Sigma from our chapter. At least 8 will be participating the event, among which 4 are current students and the other 4 are employed in local industries or graduate students or researchers.

Project Timeline

January 2019 – SPS officers meet during the 3rd week of January to discuss the various aspects of the project, will be assigned roles on contacting alumni, preparing the invitation, inviting the honorary speaker, advertising the event etc.

February 2019 – All SPS members meet the 1st week of February to discuss the upcoming event. Prepare and send out invitations, purchase awards/certificates/memento, contact the honorary speaker, contact the Sigma Pi Sigma member (a professor in the department) to preside over the induction ceremony.

March 2019 – Finalize the list of participants, order food from Fresh Ideas dining services (on-campus), final preparations, event agenda and presentation

April 2019 – Sigma Pi Sigma Induction ceremony and Alumni gathering.
SPS officers will meet with the advisor bi-weekly to discuss the progress.

Project Evaluation Plan

The success of this project in meeting the goals of the award will be evaluated on the following basis.

- All attending members will be asked to sign in to evaluate attendance and number of participants.
- Pictures and videos will be taken during the event and will be presented in our final project report.
- All participants will be encouraged to participate in a detailed survey about the department, being members of SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma.
- Feedback from the participants on the event will be used to overcome the lags and strengthen future events.

Budget Justification

Around 35-40 attendees are expected for the event. The requested amount of \$500.00 will be used for food arrangement for the attendees, memento for alumni, small prizes and awards. Any additional expenses for the event will be requested from the department budget.