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IAS-AAAS INCREMENTAL INVESTIGATIVE GRANTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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In an attempt to encourage Iowa high schools to provide support for investigative science activities, the Iowa Academy of Science, with the financial support of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, has created an Incremental Investigative Grant Program. These grants, beginning with the current school year, are available for appropriate scientific investigative activities by high school students working under the sponsorship of a science teacher.

Over the years, high school students in Iowa have been afforded a number of forums to display and to present their creative scientific endeavors. These forums have included local, regional, and state science fairs, the United States Army Science and Humanities Symposium, the Westinghouse Science Talent Search, and the Iowa Junior Academy of Science, to name a few. The quality of papers and projects developed by high school students generally has been outstanding. The IAS/AAAS Incremental Investigative Grants Program should contribute to even higher quality scientific investigative activities in the future.

Nature of Grant Support

Grants will be awarded to schools in nominal units of \$25.00 up to a maximum of \$200.00 per project. Expenditures for materials and supplies not normally available in the school laboratory are eligible. Expenses for wages and travel are not eligible. Students, teachers, and schools, are expected to share in the cost of the project. Cost sharing may include contributions in-kind of materials, equipment and facilities; sharing does not need necessarily to be on an equal basis.

The Grant Application

Successful grant recipients will demonstrate that they understand the nature of the problem to be investigated, have read the related literature, and have selected a feasible experimental procedure. Specifically, the grant narrative should include a precise statement of the problem to be investigated along with a brief sketch of how the problem was developed. The statement of the problem should be followed with a description of the experimental procedure and with a discussion of the nature of the data to be obtained. This section should be followed by a description of the equipment to be employed in the investigation and a short list of references used by the investigator.

The last portion of the grant application narrative should inform the reader of the qualifications of the investigator and of the school. This can be

done with short biographical sketches of the student and supervising teacher and with a statement of the extent and nature to which the proposed project will be supported by the student, the teacher, and the school.

The project budget constitutes the last aspect of the application and should include a listing of all expendable supplies and materials in increments of approximately \$25.00.

Detailed forms and instructions may be requested on school letterhead from the Executive Director of the Iowa Academy of Science, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613.

Submitting the Application

Once the narrative and budget discussed in the preceding section of this article have been developed, it may be submitted to the Executive Director of the Academy for constructive criticism. Several academy members have agreed to critique these proposals and forward their written comments to the investigator for editing and rewriting prior to formal submission.

Final applications must be submitted prior to October 1, of each school year. All applications that are postmarked on or before this date will be evaluated by the Research Grants Committee of the Iowa Academy of Science. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by November 1, of each school year.

If science is indeed both process and product, it seems logical then that we should provide an opportunity in our schools for students to grow in both dimensions. Why not identify your exceptional students and provide them an opportunity to grow in the field of science through and IAS/AAAS Incremental Investigative Grant? Remember, the satisfaction received by the students, the parents, the teacher, and the school community in seeing a student successfully complete a project will be more than enough reward for the hours put in on the project.

* * *

Fact or Fiction?

The three million tons of fertilizer Americans put on lawns and the like would more than cover South Asia's whole fertilizer deficit. If Americans ate one less hamburger a week, the grain "saved" would amount, in a year, to ten million tons, roughly enough to feed a subsistence diet to fifty million people.

Washington Post, 11 May 1974