**SCHOLARLY MINI-GRANT PROGRAM**

**I. PURPOSE:** The Scholarly Mini-Grant Program is offered by the Center of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship which is a part of the USC Upstate Office of Sponsored Awards and Research Support (SARS). It supports faculty members and students in their pursuit of research, scholarship, and creative activities. Funds can be used to purchase materials and supplies, or offset the costs of travel (to conduct the research) or other miscellaneous expenses.

**II. Amount:** Up to $300.00 for equipment, supplies, or travel related expenses required to complete the project. Ongoing support for continuation or completion of previously supported projects may be available in future semesters on a competitive basis. All funds should be expended by June 30th each year.

**III. ELIGIBILITY:** Full or Part-time degree seeking USC Upstate undergraduate students in good standing working under the guidance of USC Upstate faculty or staff on independent scholarly, research, or creative projects with the potential to lead to significant contributions in their field. Applications involving off-campus advisors are accepted. Preference will be given to those projects occurring outside normal course activities and to those with the potential to be disseminated outside of the university through professional publication, exhibit, performance, or presentation at professional meetings. Students are encouraged to pursue Independent or Directed Study credit for their work. Students who have received a previous Mini-Grant may apply for additional support and must provide evidence of satisfactory progress in their project to be considered for additional funding. Student supported by the Research Assistant Program are also eligible to apply for this program. **At most one award can be funded per faculty advisor per semester.**

**IV. REQUIREMENTS:** Students selected to receive awards will be expected to: (1) Work on an approved project under the guidance of a USC Upstate faculty or staff advisor; (2) Make significant progress toward the completion of their projects within the academic year; and (3) Submit a presentation or poster of their work at the Annual SC Upstate Research Symposium. Faculty project advisors will not be eligible to apply for future mini-grants if the third requirement is not fulfilled.

**V. APPLICATION PROCESS:** Students must complete an application form, which will require the following information: (1) A detailed project proposal (2) A budget with justifications; (3) Their project advisor’s information who will be required to approve the application. All application forms and deadlines can be found at the SARS website: http://www.uscupstate.edu/sars.

**VI. APPROVAL CRITERIA:** This is a competitive program. Proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria: (1) The merit of the project itself; (2) The project’s potential to provide real involvement and learning for the student; (3) The likelihood of the project resulting in external (off-campus) publication, presentation, performance, or exhibition; (4) Equitable distribution of available assistantships.

**VII. QUESTIONS:** Please direct all questions regarding this program and the application process to: Dr. Sebastian van Delden; (864) 503-5292; svandelden@uscupstate.edu.

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