

CAL POLY

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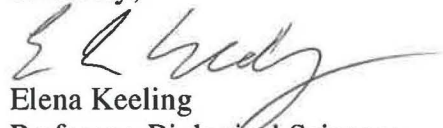
October 23, 2014

I write in full support of the proposal for funding from the Baker and Koob Endowments for *Symposium: Student Journal of Science and Math*.

Symposium is a truly hands-on, multi-disciplinary student collaboration. As a journal about science and math, it is inherently interdisciplinary; it requires the collaborative efforts of students who can review scientific and mathematical content, edit it appropriately, do graphic design, manage a multi-person team and develop a product. The first issue contained student-written articles on topics in biological sciences, physics, and statistics. The current editor-in-chief is an Engineering major, and the executive board includes English, Journalism, Biological Sciences and Kinesiology students. The journal is completely student-run and student-created; it was started last year as a senior project by a Biological Sciences major who is now pursuing a graduate degree in science journalism. As she wrote in last year's issue, the journal is "an outlet for students to give and gain knowledge". The student reviewers, editors and publishers are building on their classroom learning and research experiences in a unique and independent manner. They are also creating a document, freely available online, that showcases the quality and motivation of Cal Poly students.

I have complete confidence in the abilities of the student applicants to meet their objectives. For the inaugural issue last year, students created the journal from scratch with no funding. They had guidance and expert advice from the library, but they handled everything themselves: from recruiting authors and reviewers to developing a peer-review process and designing a logo. I was impressed with the professional quality of the journal produced, and the dedication of the students involved. Three of the current executive board members were involved last year, providing invaluable leadership and experience for this year. They are organized, enthusiastic, and committed to the success and further development of the journal. The timeline is realistic; last year the first issue was successfully published at the end of Spring quarter despite a much later start to the process. The only facilities and equipment required for the project are printing resources readily available on campus. As faculty advisor I provide guidance and advice, but the students are completely in charge of the project. *Symposium* is an outstanding example of Learning by Doing, and would be a worthy recipient of funding from the Baker and Koob Endowments.

Sincerely,



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Warren J. Baker Endowment for Excellence in Project-Based Learning Robert D. Koob Endowment for Student Success

Excellence in Project-Based Learning

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

I. Abstract:

Symposium: Student Journal of Science and Math gives a voice to an interdisciplinary field of undergraduate students performing exemplary work in scientific and mathematical projects. In every issue of *Symposium*, students will be able to share their engagement in science, scholarship, and research that demonstrates Cal Poly's Learn by Doing custom and creates campus-wide scientific discussion. *Symposium* aspires to unite science and math based disciplines across campus, advance student research, and produce annual publications of student scholarship. Student contributors will submit a culmination of their research to a board of reviewers and *Symposium*'s editorial staff to prepare it for the publication process. At the end of the year, *Symposium* will assemble these works into a professional-grade journal available in print and online. We hope our project will enhance scientific literacy, composition, and communication among students of all disciplines.

II. Introduction

The student-written and student-run Cal Poly *Symposium* journal serves to represent Cal Poly students' interdisciplinary research endeavours within the field of

science and math. Originally developed as its founder's senior project, *Symposium* draws much needed attention to student research and provides insight into the opportunities available for students in their undergraduate careers and beyond.

Editorial contribution from students across campus is crucial for the success of *Symposium*. We do not discriminate based on major or have bias towards a specific field when choosing our executive team members or reviewers. We select students who have a heart for publishing a journal that will benefit the entire student population. Our executive team is comprised of people studying English, Engineering, Journalism, Biology, and Kinesiology.

The main problem we want to address is that Cal Poly students lack exposure to the accomplishments made in other majors. While students may be engrossed by the work in their own major, we believe that it is beneficial to expose students to other discourse communities. As an interdisciplinary science journal, we want to give Cal Poly students recognition for their research and, at the same time, encourage them to explore disciplines outside their own.

III. Objective(s)

1. We primarily need funding to print copies of the journal for free distribution on Cal Poly's campus. We hope to have enough finances to print and distribute copies to students interested in our journal.
2. In order to become more recognized and help students learn about this valuable resource, we need funding to advertise our journal and spread our name on campus.

IV. Methodology

Listed below are the steps we take to produce the *Symposium* journal:

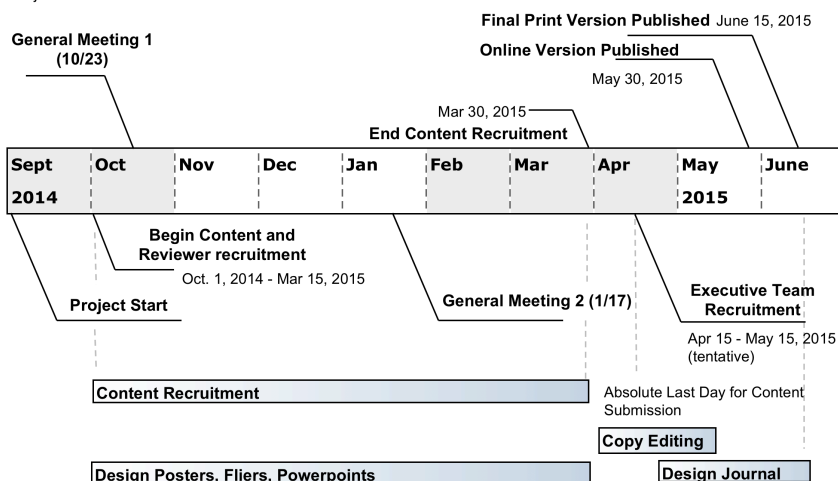
1. Recruit Content: We advertise our journal and take submissions from possible contributors and inform possible recruits about the reviewing process.
2. Select Content: The executive team reviews the content submitted, chooses content to include in the issue, and sends the content to the reviewers.
3. Review Content: The reviewers check the content for accuracy and send the content back to the contributor for revisions.
4. Revise Content: The contributor makes appropriate changes to the content and sends it back to the reviewers.
5. Copy-Edit Content: Once the content is passed by the reviewers, the copy editors make final revisions and ensure professional quality.
6. Publish Content: The design team organizes and designs the final layout of the journal, then publishes it online and in print.

V. Timeline

The recruitment and publication process for *Symposium* begins at the start of the academic year and one issue is published annually. The following is our projected timeline for the process of publishing this year's issue of *Symposium* and preparing for next year:

Cal Poly Symposium

Project Schedule



VI. Final Products and Dissemination

The final product is a publication of an academic journal containing five to eight submissions from Cal Poly students in both physical and electronic form. Through Symposium, we hope to provide students and the public with free access to and knowledge of the exceptional work that Cal Poly students accomplish every year in the field of science and math.

VII. Budget Justification

A. Operating Expenses:

1. Printing / Duplication (100 X \$20 per copy)
2. Postage / Shipping (20 X \$20 per flat-rate shipping)
3. Advertising (Fliers: \$6 for 30 fliers and we advertise for 9 months)

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PROPOSAL BUDGET

| | |
|---|--|
| Student Applicant(s): | |
| Faculty Advisor: | |
| Project Title: | Requested Baker Endowment Funding |
| Travel <i>subtotal</i> | \$0 |
| Travel: In-state | \$0 |
| Travel: Out-of-state | \$0 |
| Travel: International | \$0 |
| Operating Expenses <i>subtotal</i> | \$ |
| Non-computer Supplies & Materials | \$0 |
| Computer Supplies & Materials | \$0 |
| Software/Software Licenses | \$0 |
| Printing/Duplication | \$2000 |
| Postage/Shipping | \$400 |
| Registration | \$0 |
| Membership Dues & Subscriptions | \$0 |
| Multimedia Services | \$0 |
| Advertising | \$100 |
| Journal Publication Costs | \$0 |
| Contractual Services <i>subtotal</i> | \$0 |
| Contracted Services | \$0 |
| Equipment Rental/Lease Agreements | \$0 |
| Service/Maintenance Agreements | \$0 |
| TOTAL | \$2500 |