



SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Proposal

Project Proposal Title	2019 Sigma Pi Sigma Induction and Dinner
Name of School	Lamar University
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	643
Total Amount Requested	\$500

Abstract

Lamar University's Sigma Pi Sigma chapter is at a crossroads in its existence. For the sake of expansion and stability in future, our chapter requests funds to go toward a special induction ceremony, with guests from physics alumni and members of the community. Thus, we expect to establish a new era of growth for our chapter.

Proposal Statement

Overview of Proposed Project

In an effort to revive Lamar University's Sigma Pi Sigma chapter, which had been inactive for 17 years, an induction ceremony was held in May of 2014. No further inductions took place until 4 new members were inducted in 2018, three of whom graduated soon after. Today the chapter is currently active and consists of a single student member, Alek Hutson, who acts as president of Sigma Pi Sigma. The chapter's sole member is set to graduate in May of 2019, thus leaving the chapter's membership empty yet again. By holding an induction in spring of 2019, we aim to increase participation and membership, thus perpetuating an active Sigma Pi Sigma chapter at Lamar.

The proposed induction is to be held in February or March of 2019. The ceremony will provide the chapter an opportunity to induct new members and establish Sigma Pi Sigma as a fixture of fellowship within Lamar's SPS chapter. Our Sigma Pi Sigma chapter will invite physics alumni and faculty to participate in the induction ceremony.

Our chapter has also reached out to undergraduate researchers at Lamar who are currently conducting a study on the "Perceptions of Caribbean Cuisine in Texas". In support of this research being conducted by the department of Hospitality Administration and Office of Undergraduate Research, the induction will include a dinner of Caribbean cuisine provided by those conducting the research.

Currently the goal of the chapter and its president is to induct at least three eligible non-graduating student members in the upcoming induction, with the hope that newly inducted members will usher in a new era for Sigma Pi Sigma at Lamar, consolidating the chapter as a staple of involvement and achievement.

How Proposed Project Meets the Purpose of the Award

It is our desire that by including other departments and the Office of Undergraduate Research we might raise awareness of the organization on campus. The dinner will also add distinction to the ceremony which fulfills one of the prescribed award purposes. We also expect, by including alumni and faculty in the induction, that interest and support of the honor society will abound.

Plan for Carrying Out Proposed Project

All planning for this event will be conducted by Alek Hutson with the help of faculty advisor Dr. Cristian Bahrim. Dinner will be provided by the department of Hospitality Administration under the direction of undergraduate researcher Odalys Rentas. Next, a venue and dates will need to be worked out. We plan to use the same on-campus venue as last year (Mason Room located in the John Gray Center) because it provided adequate lighting and space for the induction. In addition, in order to increase attendance, our induction event will be posted in University Press' news and around the physics department. Among those we plan to invite is Lamar and Sigma Pi Sigma alumnus Mrs. Keeley Fairchild who is currently a high school physics teacher at Lumberton High School nearby.

Project Timeline

Upon completion of the 2018 fall semester, the SPS chapter and department faculty will first determine who is eligible for induction based upon guidelines established by the national organization. Those eligible will be contacted and invitations to the induction will be sent out in January. Depending on venue availability on campus the induction will be held in February or early March.

Project Evaluation Plan

First and foremost, the encompassing goal of the project is to induct new members. Therefore, we will base the success of the project predominantly on the number of members we induct. It is the goal of the chapter and its president to induct a minimum of 3 non-graduating members so that the chapter might remain active during the following academic year. We will also record the number of attendees who will come in support of those inducted and the ceremony. We estimate a total of around 30-40 attendees, including students, faculty, and family.

Budget Justification

Because a venue and media equipment will be provided by the school and department all monetary needs will apply to the dinner itself. We estimate the food to cost approximately 15 dollars per person and a total of around 30-40 attendees (including parents and friends of inductees). We also estimate an additional 80 dollars for beverages, dishes, napkins, etc. By providing the dinner after the ceremony we encourage fellowship between SPS, Sigma Pi Sigma and Lamar's community outside physics. This event will help to introduce and promote connection between our Sigma Pi Sigma chapter and other honors organizations at Lamar.