

Student Funding for Professional Development Opportunities

The Davis Family Foundation awarded a grant to Thomas College to expand and enhance the internship program. Part of the grant funding will be allocated to student professional development during this academic year. Juniors and seniors interested in professional development opportunities can apply for funding through the Career Services Office.

A committee of faculty and staff will review applications based on the guidelines and criteria for selection noted below. The review process will begin January 4, 2010, and preference will be given to proposals received by January 29, 2010. Proposals will be considered throughout the spring semester, until funding is no longer available. Students must use awarded funds by May 31, 2010.

Guidelines

Thomas College will consider requests for funding for conferences, seminars, academic competitions, speaking engagements, or other events that will enhance a student's skills or experience related to his or her major or career aspirations, or are consistent with any of the four Thomas core competencies (communications, analytical reasoning, leadership and service, and community and interpersonal relations).

The college will provide funding for at least two students to pay for fees related to the conference or membership registration and reasonable travel and related expenses. The maximum award for any given student and event will normally not exceed \$1,000.

Suggested approaches to explore possibilities

- Talk with faculty and staff about possible conferences, competitions, and events
- Search on the Internet for conferences or other events, using a variety of search terms to find professional development or speaking opportunities for college students

Criteria for selection

We are seeking proposals that:

- Are consistent with a student's program of study, internship, or career aspirations
- Are consistent with Thomas College Core Competencies
- Provide outstanding opportunities for a student to build skills and knowledge
- Provide an outstanding experience that will contribute to personal and professional growth
- Provide a forum for the student to take an active role, for example, presenting at a conference

Format for proposals

Submit written proposals to Career Services and include the following information:

- Cover page with name, major, class year, GPA, anticipated career field, and contact information
- One page including:
 - Detailed description of the proposed conference or event
 - How will the event enhance your academic program and/or your anticipated career path?
 - How does this event help you develop within the Thomas College Core Competencies?
- One page itemizing costs for the conference, transportation, lodging, and meals, and if you are requesting or receiving funding from other sources (not including personal funds). If so, from where, and what is the dollar amount?