Preston C. Townsend Biotechnology Fellowship Application

Deadline: Friday, October 27, 2017

The Preston C. Townsend Biotechnology Fellowship was established through a gift from the family of Mr. Townsend to support University of Delaware doctoral students pursuing studies in biotechnology. The fellowship is administered by the Delaware Biotechnology Institute (DBI).

Mr. Townsend graduated from the University of Delaware in 1932 with a Bachelor of Science from the College of Agriculture and for many years guided the development of the family agribusiness, Townsends, Inc. This fellowship was established in his honor and in memory of his accomplishments.

Fellowship Overview:
The Townsend Fellowship supports doctoral students who are actively involved in life science research with a focus in biotechnology and whose interests also include educating others about science. Eligible students will typically be in their third year of doctoral study. The fellowship consists of a stipend of $10,000, paid over the academic year. In addition, the DBI will supplement the stipend of the Townsend Fellow to the level currently used by their home department plus $1000. The support is for one year, but the students will be termed Townsend Fellows for the duration of their time as a student at UD.

Townsend Fellows serve as the lead scientific outreach graduate student for the Science For All Delawareans initiative that brings K-12 students and teachers to DBI and participates in several regional outreach events. Faculty should be aware that the commitment carries with it an expectation of approximately 25% effort devoted to these events.

Nomination and Application Process:
Faculty can nominate up to two students to be considered for the Fellowship. Each nominee should complete the following application process and submit a completed application package by Friday, October 27, 2017 to Mary Boggs, Associate Director of Programs at outreach@dbi.udel.edu
Application Components (from advisor, submit items 1-4 as single PDF file by email):
The complete application consists of the following components:

1. Nomination letter from the faculty advisor (<2 pages). The letter should acknowledge that the advisor understands that approximately 25% of the Fellow’s time will be devoted to outreach service.
2. Student’s current CV
3. Student’s responses to application questions (see below)
4. Student’s Academic Transcript – undergraduate and graduate (may be copied from grad school application)
5. Letter of Recommendation (limit 1, not from faculty advisor, should comment on nominee’s outreach and/or communication skills, to be sent separately)
6. A subset of finalists will be selected to give a 10-minute oral presentation to the selection committee

Application Questions. Provide written responses to each question. Limit your total response to no more than 1300 words.

a. Tell us about your research and how it pertains to the field of biotechnology.
b. Townsend Fellows are expected to understand and be familiar with the facilities available at DBI. What types of interactions do you have with the DBI facilities? What facilities do you use at DBI and how frequently do you utilize them?
c. Townsend Fellows are expected to devote approximately 25% of their time to supporting DBI STEM outreach activities. Tell us about your experience AND/OR interest in outreach activities.
d. What would you like to share with K-12 students about your research?

Letter of Recommendation:
Applicants must arrange for one letter of recommendation (in addition to the faculty advisor nomination letter) from an individual qualified to assess scientific ability and communications skills. Send under separate cover to:

Townsend Fellowship Committee c/o Mary Boggs
Preston C. Townsend Research Fellowship Application
Delaware Biotechnology Institute
15 Innovation Way
Newark, DE 19711
Email: outreach@dbi.udel.edu

Oral Presentation:
Finalists will be invited to give a 10-minute oral presentation to a selection committee describing the science/research of their interest in a format that can be understood by non-scientists and middle school/high school students.

The selection committee will evaluate nominees based on their demonstrated research aptitude, excellence in science communication, and commitment to STEM outreach.
Decision Timeline:
The Townsend Fellow selected will be notified on/about November 15, 2017. The fellowship will begin on November 30, 2017.