

August 19, 2013

RE: National and International Scholarships and Fellowships (NISF)

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the fall 2013 semester at Berry College! As many of you know (and as its name implies), the Office of National and International Scholarships and Fellowships (NISF) aims to increase the number of Berry students applying for major national and international scholarships, fellowships, and grants. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you regarding our recruiting efforts to ask for your help.

More Berry undergraduates are applying for major national or international fellowships, scholarships, grants and awards than ever before, and they have over the past several years had a great deal of success. Some 35 students applied for various awards in 2012-13 alone, and among the awards they won were various internships, several NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates awards (REUs), and a French Culture Teaching Assistantship to Nice, France. In just the past few years, Berry students have won Fulbrights, Gilman Scholarships, Goldwater Scholarships, and Woodruff, Whitehead, and Evans Foundations fellowships, among others.

For all this success, there remains significant untapped potential in this area. A key way to increase students' chances of success is for faculty to identify potential applicants early on in their college careers in order to encourage them to seek out funding opportunities. We ought to urge students to gain research experience, pursue academic excellence, study abroad, and engage in meaningful and challenging service. I ask you to reflect on your advisees, student workers, research assistants, and the students in your classes, thinking about who might be strong candidates for different funding opportunities, both this year and down the road. We ought to be reaching out to these students right now, since competing successfully for big awards takes much time and effort.

I will be on sabbatical fall 2013. Fortunately, thanks to the generous support of many faculty members, the NISF Office has a "Faculty Contact" for each scholarship or fellowship. Please get in touch with the appropriate Faculty Contact as needed this semester: their names and contact information are at www.berry.edu/provost/nifs/page.aspx?id=7860. For general inquiries, contact Dean Tom Kennedy of the Evans School.

Please reach out to students early this semester to get them thinking about opportunities and to help them apply. Deadlines creep up quickly. Some deadlines are coming up in the next few weeks: for the Mitchell, Fulbright, Marshall, Rhodes, Gates-Cambridge, etc. Take a moment at the start of this semester to visit the NISF website at berry.edu/nisf. It is completely updated and loaded with information on funding opportunities.

Sincerely,

Matt Stanard

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