Emerging Scholars Summer Research Program Application Guidelines:

Sponsored by Office of the Provost, Bucknell Institute for Public Policy and Bucknell Center for Sustainability & the Environment

The Emerging Scholars Summer Research program will fund 5-6 students for 8-10 weeks during the Summer 2016. Eligibility, the application process, and the selection criteria are outlined below.

**Eligibility:** Eligible candidates include all enrolled undergraduate students in good standing at Bucknell University. The program seeks to encourage undergraduates who have not yet had the opportunity to pursue independent research, especially those who might continue developing their research interests in the form of honors theses or similar endeavors.

**Description:** The goal of the Emerging Scholars Summer Research Program is to enable promising young scholars to explore research interests with a faculty mentor. The program prioritizes support for projects in the social sciences and arts and humanities. This program differs from other summer research grants, such as those provided through the Program for Undergraduate Research, in that applicants pursue different types of exploratory conceptual and applied research rather than a more structured research project. The program allows emerging scholars to develop interests and expertise in a field of study while honing their research skills under the tutelage of a faculty mentor or mentors.

Successful candidates will present scholarly and/or creative projects that are rooted primarily in the social sciences or the arts and humanities. Projects may seek to integrate disciplinary perspectives such as sociology and religion or environmental economics and environmental ethics. In addition, successful projects would include those that address specific concerns related to public policy as well as sustainability and the environment.

**Application:** Students interested in applying for this program should submit an application that includes the following:

- A presentation of the research question(s) or theme(s)
- An explanation of the interdisciplinary nature of the research question(s) or theme(s)
- A description of the research environment
- A statement of support from faculty mentor or mentors

The student should take primary responsibility for developing the proposal with support from the faculty mentor(s). The student should write and submit the application. The application should include a brief summary of the student's background and interests in undertaking the project. The proposal must include a clearly defined set of goals for the proposed research that are achievable within a period of 8-10 weeks during the summer months as well as evidence of intellectual collaboration between the student and faculty member(s) in both the formulation and completion of the project. The proposal should also clearly summarize the project's specific outcomes and significance (e.g., an annotated bibliography, a literature review, a research paper, or a creative production). The proposal should specify how the project will support the student's educational goals (e.g., supporting development of an honors thesis project during senior year).

The proposal should be written in language that is understandable to those whose area of
specialization is outside the area of the proposed research. It is important that the every section in the application (see below) are clearly addressed.

**Selection Criteria:**

Applications will be judged on (1) the overall quality of the proposal, (2) the project's potential contributions within the social sciences and/or the arts and humanities, (3) the project's potential contributions relative to specific concerns associated with public policy and/or sustainability and the environment. Key aspects of a quality proposal include: a clearly articulated research question (or set of questions), a clearly articulated final product or outcome, a well-organized work plan and a strong, substantive endorsement from the faculty mentor(s). The project must clearly represent the student's interests as opposed to serving as an extension of the faculty mentor's research agenda.

Please note that grammatical lapses, sloppy editing, and spelling errors will negatively influence the committee's impression of the proposal. In keeping with the objective of clarity, the goals of the project and the student's work plan should also be clearly evident to the members of the advisory committee.

Successful student applicants will receive $3,000 in summer funding to support their research work, and will be eligible for student housing on campus under the standard rules for students doing undergraduate research on campus during the summer months. Faculty mentors will receive $500 for their efforts. Recipients of Emerging Scholars summer research grants will be expected to present their work publicly during a poster session or similar event during the summer or subsequent academic year. They will also be expected to submit a formal report along with a copy of the final product of the research project.
PART I: Cover Page, to include:

1. Title of the Project
2. Student Name and Class Year
3. Campus Address (Box #) and Cell phone #
4. Email Address
5. Student BUID
6. Name, Department, and Email Address of Faculty Mentor(s)

The cover page is to be signed by the student and mentor.

PART II: Limit the following to three single-spaced word-processed pages, using 12 point font.

Statement of support from faculty mentor or mentors

Description of the research question(s) or theme(s):

The student should describe the research question(s) or theme(s) and the planned research outcome, typically a focused literature review or a similar finished product. In writing this paragraph, students should be mindful of time constraints in designing their summer research question, and thus propose a project that is sufficiently narrow to allow completion during the summer, but leave room for discovery of some new angles that might inform future projects. Regardless of what is proposed, a logical connection between process and outcome must be evident to the selection committee.

Description of the interdisciplinary nature of the research question(s) or theme(s)

The student should provide a brief discussion of the two or more disciplines, sub-fields, or domains, that will inform the project and the rationale for synthesizing material from these areas. Ordinarily, this discussion will include a discussion of the student’s own background, through coursework or other means, in these disciplines, or discussion of the student’s background in one area and advice received from faculty mentors on relevant other disciplines to add to this knowledge.

Describe the research environment and work plan

The student should discuss the planned research environment for the summer, including work plan, work location, and planned meeting frequency. Please note that contact and communication between student and mentor is expected to be both regular and substantive throughout the project. The frequency with which the student and mentor interact, and the general availability of the mentor, will be important factors in selecting summer fellows.

Faculty Endorsement

The faculty mentor should submit under separate cover a supporting letter that details his/her commitment to the completion of the project, summarizes how mentoring will occur, and provides an assessment of the student’s scholarly potential. The letter should also briefly summarize how the project relates to the faculty mentor’s scholarship or teaching as well as how the project will benefit the student scholarly development.
Note: If the proposed project involves human or animal subjects, it is the faculty advisor’s responsibility to obtain any required IRB or IACUC approval.

Application deadline is Monday, March 7, 2016. Please submit proposals to Meg Martin in Academic West 100, mcm039@bucknell.edu.

Applications will be accepted electronically, as a pdf attachment. Applicants will be notified by Monday, March 21, 2016.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Meg Martin, x2820, mcm039@bucknell.edu. If you have questions about your proposal as you are developing it, feel free to contact Professor Peter Wilshusen, pwilshus@bucknell.edu, Professor Jan Knoedler, knoedler@bucknell.edu or Professor Amy Wolaver, awolaver@bucknell.edu