

The MTSO Student Enrichment Program

Funded by a generous grant from the Walter and Marian English Foundation

With the help of the Walter and Marian English Foundation, MTSO created the Student Enrichment Program (SEP) during the academic year 2008-09. **This program allows full-time students to participate in life and professional enrichment through application for funds to support their endeavors.** The SEP supports (but is not limited to) such areas of student enrichment as: attendance and participation in scholarly or professional conferences and workshops, participation in social action initiatives, attending lectures related to society and religion, and participation in service initiatives. The MTSO Student Enrichment Program encourages the transformation of the participants, as they will have the opportunity to engage in activities beyond the borders of MTSO.

The MTSO community as a whole benefits from the dialogue that ensues when participating students return to MTSO. The program encourages students to be imaginative about ways their academic and professional horizons may be enriched. **Applications** for enrichment funding are received **September 1st through May 15th, on a rolling basis.** If you are applying to use the funding for a Summer or early Fall event, the completed application is due no later than May 15th. Applications are reviewed by the SEP Committee consisting of the Director of Student Services and the Academic Dean. The **maximum** funding of a domestic project will be \$1,500 and for an international project, \$2,500. Applications that request more than \$500 must be accompanied by a letter of support from a person able to speak to the contribution of the experience to the student's scholarly/professional growth. This letter should reference how and for what length of time the supporter has known the applicant, as well as the applicant's character, work ethic, and the correlation of the proposal to the student's future vocational and educational goals. The letter of support *cannot* be completed by a current member of the SEP Committee.

A **maximum of three** SEP grants can be received per student during the time period they are a degree-seeking student at MTSO, one per academic year. Please note: this grant will not cover travel that is *required* for a credit-bearing course.

All students whose applications are approved for funding must share the process and outcomes of their enrichment projects with the MTSO community. Students may choose from the following options for sharing their projects:

Option 1: Write a blog post (or, for multi-day projects, set of blogs posts) describing your experiences and reflecting on them. Blog posts will be shared on Populi and posted on the MTSO Student Facebook page. Details: Students must write a minimum of one post per day during their enrichment experience (training, conference, trip, etc.), ranging from 200-500 words per post. Pictures, when appropriate, are a plus.

Option 2: Participate in a public, SEP committee-moderated round table discussion with other SEP grant recipients about your experiences.

The event being funded as well as the presentation component, in whatever form it takes, *must be completed prior to the student's expected date of graduation.*

A running list of successful application ideas and some examples of student contributions to the community will be made available on Populi to raise awareness and stir imagination of students. The SEP Committee will use criteria for selection for the program which will include (but are not be limited to) such issues as: 1) the nature of the connection between the proposed experience and the student's area of interest and expertise; 2) the level of participation in the experience (e.g. will the student be a presenter or observer in the experience); 3) the value of the experience both for the student and MTSO; 4) the creative/imaginative dimension of the experience; and 5) whether the student has been a previous participant. **Student applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.00.** Any questions as well as completed applications should be sent to Bhoke Kirigiti, director of student services, at bkirigiti@mtso.edu.