

## MCENTEGART HALL LIBRARY UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

McEntegart Hall Library is pleased and honored to partner with SJC Brooklyn's Undergraduate Research Symposium Committee and the Office of the Executive Dean to showcase outstanding research efforts by our undergraduates. The library awards a cash prize to an undergraduate whose Undergraduate Research Symposium submission is deemed to evidence outstanding use of library services and information resources.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible, a student applicant must be a currently enrolled SJC Brooklyn undergraduate in any discipline. The student must have applied to participate in the Undergraduate Research Symposium by the deadline and accepted for participation at the Symposium OR present as part of the Honors Program. The students must submit the cover sheet, abstract, essay, and the paper/poster electronically by the application deadline.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Projects (papers, posters) will be judged based on the following criteria:

- 1) Excellent use of information and library resources
- 2) Professional-quality presentation evidencing originality, sophistication, and depth in use of library sources and services
- 3) Reflective essay and bibliography

### **ESSAY REQUIREMENTS**

An essay of 500-750 words describing the process of using information and library resources, explaining the research strategy used and the progression of the topic from proposal development stage through research and submission. The essay should discuss the following themes:

- 1) Topic development: How did you conceptualize and refine your initial topic? Describe your independent thinking, reading, and research as well as how consultation with your faculty sponsor(s) and the librarian(s) shaped the final subject matter. Describe how long this process took and major steps therein.
- 2) Research strategies: What strategies did you implement to locate and evaluate information? Describe what went as planned and any unexpected discoveries (as well as how they may have changed the course of your research and/or final submission). Include evidence of your personal academic learning process through consultation with professionals (teaching faculty and librarians)
- 3) Library Resources: What resources did you find to be relevant for your research? Discuss not only the tools you eventually used for your project (e.g., books, journals, reports, essays, etc.) but the finding aids consulted to locate these resources (e.g., databases,

catalogs, reference books, subject guides, bibliographies, websites, electronic discussion lists, etc.).

- 4) Evaluation of Information: Describe materials you consulted but decided NOT to use. Explain why and describe how you came to such decisions. If you consulted your faculty advisor(s) or librarian(s) about these decisions please describe the guidance you received. Were some kinds of information harder to come by than others? Describe any other challenges and how you overcame them to complete your research.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

The award application cover sheet and supporting documentation must be submitted electronically by the application deadline. Supporting documentation includes the following:

- Application cover sheet
- Abstract
- Reflective essay (with works cited list or bibliography)
- Poster/paper submission.

These documents must be sent as e-mail attachments to [mcentegart@sjcny.edu](mailto:mcentegart@sjcny.edu) (cover sheet, abstract, essay, and paper in MS Word; posters in MS Power Point). Please include LIBRARY AWARD in the "Subject Line" of the e-mail.