Willamette Science Outreach Program (William B. Webber Scholarship Program), 2017/2018

“Young girls are an untapped resource in science and engineering, and therefore they need encouragement and positive role models so that they will continue to pursue their studies in these areas.” (Bill Webber)

ABOUT THE PROGRAM: Through the Webber program, female biology, chemistry, environmental science and physics majors who are enthusiastic and knowledgeable in their area of research serve as mentors to local 5th graders to foster scientific curiosity and understanding. Mr. Webber saw his scholarship program as an opportunity to provide especially young girls with a female role model and mentor, while recognizing, honoring and financially supporting the scholars as they earn their science degrees from Willamette University. The Webber Scholars, along with other available female professionals, can serve as role models encouraging girls and young women to continue studies for a career in math, science, or engineering.

Mr. William B. Webber was a trustee of Willamette University and a former executive of Tektronix, Inc. The Webber program began in the 1995/96 academic year and so far has served a total of eight different elementary schools in the Salem/Keizer School District. In 2011 it expanded to serve two schools per academic year.

ELIGIBILITY: Any current (2016/17) sophomore or junior woman majoring in biology, chemistry, environmental science, or physics and enrolled full time in the College of Liberal Arts at Willamette University is eligible for consideration to receive the scholarship for the following academic year. Applicants must have a cumulative college grade point average of 3.00 or higher and must be in residence for the full 2017/18 academic year. Current scholars are eligible to apply to participate in the program for a second year.

SELECTION: Two or more finalists will be selected from each of the four departments (Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, and Physics) by recommendation of the faculty of that department after reviewing each application. Final selections will be made by the Webber Program, in consultation with department chairs. Each Webber Scholar will receive $9,000 for the 2017/18 academic year.

REQUIREMENTS: Scholars will be required to participate in an outreach program with local fifth grade elementary schools to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for the sciences with other young people. To this end, each scholar will be responsible for developing, with a partner, three hands-on science activities in her field of science, to be presented in an elementary school in the area during a the spring semester 2018.

TIME COMMITMENT:

- During the fall semester, all scholars are required meet weekly for one hour (Thursday 11:15-12:15 unless there is consensus on an alternate time) to organize and plan the group’s hands-on lessons for the following spring. Scholars will also need to spend an average one two hours per week outside of meetings designing and preparing lessons, and make at least one visit to the school they will be working with in the spring.
- During the spring semester, all scholars will participate in weekly pre-planning meetings (again, Thursday 11:15-12:15) and will participate in weekly school visits (~2 hours on Thursday mornings, 8:15-10:15am) for approximately 13 consecutive weeks.
(excluding spring break). Each scholar will be responsible for either leading a week’s presentation or helping to facilitate another scholar’s presentation.

Application for the 2017/18 Webber Science Outreach Program Scholarship

Please return this application to the chair of your department by February 24, 2017 (last Friday in February). Decisions will be made by the end of March and officially announced at the Honors and Awards Convocation in April.

Name: _______________________________  ID #: __________________

Major: ___________________________  2017/18 year in college: ______________

Campus Box: ____________  Local telephone or cell phone number: ____________

On a separate sheet of paper please briefly answer the following:

1. What is your understanding of the mission of the Webber program and why are you interested in participating in it?

2. Please describe an experience that sparked your interest in science as a child. How might you design a lesson that would give elementary school students a similar experience?

3. Did you have any role models when you were a child and how did they influence your career choices?

4. What relevant experience do you have (e.g., collaborations, teamwork, experience with children, other outreach work)?

5. What about the program do you think will be the biggest challenge for you?

6. What are your priorities in the upcoming two semesters?

7. What other commitments outside of course work will you have next academic year?

I give Willamette university permission to release my information contained within this application and my academic record at Willamette University to the faculty of the departments of biology, chemistry, environmental science, and physics, and to the coordinator and director of the Webber program.

___________________________________  _______________________
Student signature  Date