

## **Willamette Science Outreach Program (William B. Webber Scholarship Program), 2012/2013**

*"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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 (2011/12) sophomore or junior woman majoring in biology, chemistry, environmental science, or physics enrolled full time in the College of Liberal Arts at Willamette University shall be 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 academic year.

**SELECTION:** Two 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. Each Webber Scholar will receive \$9,000 for the 2012/13 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 three hands-on science activities in her field of science for presentation in an elementary school in the area, during a 12 week series. 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. A secondary benefit can be the improvement of math and science programs in the local schools.

**TIME COMMITMENT:** During the fall semester, all eight scholars will meet on a weekly basis for 1-1.5 hours on **Tuesday mornings, 8:30-10:00am**, to organize and plan the group's program for the following spring.

During the spring semester, all eight scholars will participate in weekly pre-planning meetings (1-1.5 hours on **Tuesday mornings, 8:30-10:00am**) and will participate in weekly school visits (~2 hours on **Thursday mornings, 8:00-10:00am**) for approximately 12 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 2012/13 Webber Science Outreach Program Scholarship**

Please return this application to the chair of your department **by February 24, 2012 (last Friday in February)**. Department Chairs must make a decision by **March 30, 2012 (last Friday in March)**. The Webber Scholars will be announced at the Honors and Awards Convocation in **April 2012**.

Name:

ID #:

Major:

2012/13 year in college:

Campus Box:

Local telephone number:

On a separate piece of paper, type an essay of 1000 words or less. Use the following questions as a guideline for your answers. You can answer the questions in any order you like as long as you address all of them in your essay.

- 1) What is the mission of the Webber program and why are you interested in participating in it?
- 2) What relevant experiences do you have (e.g. collaborations, teamwork, experience with young children)?
- 3) Why do you think it is important to expose young children to and engage them in science?
- 4) Why do you think it is important for young children to be exposed to female role models, particularly in the sciences?
- 5) Did you have any role models when you were a child and how did they influence your career choices?
- 6) What do you think will be the biggest challenge for you?
- 7) What are your priorities in the upcoming two semesters?
- 8) What is your future career goal?

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.

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Student signature

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Date