



# SIGMA PI SIGMA

The physics honor society

## Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Project Award Proposal

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Project Proposal Title	[Reviving the Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Chapter at the University of the Sciences]
Name of School	[University of the Sciences]
Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter Number	[619]
Total Amount Requested	[\$500.00.]

### Abstract

We propose to revive the Sigma Pi Sigma chapter of the University of the Sciences by hosting an induction ceremony and banquet that brings students, alumni, faculty and administrators together. The ceremony will celebrate the achievements of students and alumni and feature talks from an alumnus and industrial physicist.

# Proposal Statement

## **Overview of Proposed Project**

The SPS chapter at the University of the Sciences has experienced a resurgence in both membership and outreach activities in the year 2015-16. With the help of a Future Faces of Physics award and a Marsh White Award, USciences SPS performed outreach for minority students at West Catholic High School and presented a “Physics in Magic” to hundreds of patrons at the annual Philadelphia Science Carnival. Outreach has provided an outlet for the passion of physics majors in this primarily undergraduate institution, transformed the outlook of its majors, and has stimulated the department in many ways. For the first time, USciences SPS sent a five-student contingent to the Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Congress where all students presented posters on research and outreach.

USciences also has a Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society but it has been inactive for several years. We propose to re-energize and activate it, through an induction ceremony-banquet that will honor the outstanding academic record of many active SPS members, both graduating and continuing. The event will also provide an opportunity to network with and honor a physics alumnus and a local industrial physicist, both of whom we will invite to give inspirational career talks to the chapter inductees. This fellowship is especially important because the Physics Major program at USciences is relatively young – established about a decade ago. The event will also convey to invited administrators the importance and culture of physics as a viable discipline with excellent career potentials, which is especially needed in a small undergraduate institution like USciences. In addition to an estimated 5-8 physics majors to be honored, another 5 students of other majors who have excelled in physics will be invited to join ΕΠΕ. From outside the university, we will also invite and honor 1-2 outstanding middle school girls who have participated in the SPS Advisor’s NSF-funded Physics Wonder Girls Summer Camp, as well as 1-2 minority high school students who participated in SPS’s outreach activities. The purpose is to further encourage these outstanding K-12 students in considering physics as a viable career path. Including select USciences physics faculty, administrators, guest speakers, and 1-2 student guests, an estimated 30-35 attendees are expected.

## **How Proposed Project Meets the Purpose of the Award**

Through the induction ceremony and banquet, we expect to make the local community aware of Sigma Pi Sigma, through flyers, program and marketing through the university website. Connections will be made between students and alumni and area industrial physicists who might be helpful in helping students find physics-related jobs. By opening up the nominations to non-physics majors, we expect to increase membership in both honor society and SPS, and correspondingly, enhance physics outreach potential.

## Plan for Carrying Out Proposed Project

- Personnel – In the absence of current USciences students who are Sigma Pi Sigma members, the SPS Advisor, Dr. Roberto Ramos, who is a Sigma Pi Sigma inductee, will lead the effort to re-activate Sigma Pi Sigma. Dr. Ramos will be assisted by current officers of the Society of Physics Students. After being inducted, the students inducted into the Honor Society will organize themselves and assume responsibility for organizing future Sigma Pi Sigma induction ceremonies. It is expected that the alumnus and industrial physicist may be inducted as well to the chapter.
- Marketing – The project will be marketed to the campus community via flyers and emails to outstanding physics students, as determined by physics faculty. The Sigma Pi Sigma advisor will email the prospective alumni speakers and industrial physicist and invite them to participate.
- Activities – During the ceremony, the SPS Advisor will first describe the history and context of Sigma Pi Sigma, followed by presentations of current physics majors of the outreach activities performed during the year. Speakers and guests will be introduced, followed by the formal induction ceremony and banquet.

## Project Timeline

January 2017 – The SPS Advisor, assisted by SPS members, will produce and send an invitation to guest speakers, nominations of students, and a program.

February 2017 – The SPS Advisor and SPS members will finalize the program and activities, and make arrangements for the location and food arrangements.

April 2017 – After acceptances, the Induction and Banquet is conducted

## Project Evaluation Plan

To assess the event, blind surveys will be given to all inductees before leaving the ceremony. The SPS Advisor will also conduct a debriefing with the SPS members who will help execute the event, after the ceremony.

## Budget Justification

The Budget requested of \$500 will primarily go to modest food arrangements for 30-35 attendees. Some part of the budget will go to certificates and small tokens. The SPS Advisor will request subsidy from the College to cover any incidentals that go over the \$500 budget.