

Appendices



A&SPIRE YEAR TWO (2015-2016)

APPENDIX I

SPARK Mission Statement

The mission of Scholarship Programs, Awards, Research and Knowledge (SPARK) is foremost to provide expertise and resources to students aspiring to be knowledgeable about and competitive for national and international academic merit awards. To those ends, the personnel in this office strive to help students develop research proposals, internship letters of inquiry, graduate school essays, various kinds of applications, and personal statements.

The resources include offering one-on-one counseling to students who fill out the Student Profile online, mentoring all who are recommended to this office, providing expertise on specific scholarships to various constituencies, critiquing personal essays, supporting professor/other recommendation letters, and identifying strategies early to help students understand and access the best experts in their fields for research, internships, community involvement, etc. To these ends, the office provides a well-maintained and current website with broad options and numerous, vetted resources.

In the spring of 2014 we initiated an honors society for the College of Arts & Sciences – The Ampersand Society – so that we would be able to nurture cohorts of students both within communities of peers and as individuals. Utilizing the resources this office offers, Ampersand members are charged with maximizing these opportunities themselves and sharing the information with other students through all venues open to them.

The office is also pleased to be one of the contacts for “telling the stories” of high achievement students across the academic units and motivating more students to create such stories. The office recruits via SPARK CARDS and various workshops throughout the year. In addition, the mission of the office includes presentations to or for many constituencies, including university recruitment programs, academic units, advisors, special academic celebrations, dean’s teas, honor societies, Baylor Marketing & Communications, the College of Arts & Sciences Board of Advocates, Baylor Development and the Board of Regents. It regularly interacts with the A&S Undergraduate Program Directors, administrators in the Honors College, BURST, SIGHT, CASA, BIC, URSA, Baylor Business Fellows, Carr P. Collins Scholars and the Academy for Teaching and Learning, among others. The office also takes an active role in the National Association of Fellowship Advisors.

In sum, the office fosters a wide variety of academic conversations, collaborations and partnerships campus-wide while providing experienced mentoring to students and recent alumni who are seeking to bid for highly competitive opportunities and national awards during and after their Baylor years.