November, 15, 2010

Dear NJGSS Alums and Supporters,

It is November and as the leaves are dropping from the trees, we are busy preparing for another summer of New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences (NJGSS). The summer of 2011 will be the sixth program for which we have to raise the money necessary to host an eager and enthusiastic group of young scientists and mathematicians for three weeks of intense course work, laboratories, and team projects. Last year we were able to raise over half (52%) of the funding we needed from corporations and foundations, compared to only 20% in 2009. While the State of New Jersey still provides a small amount of our funding (15% of our 2010 budget), the remaining one-third came from alumni and parents of alumni. Thanks to you and these other donors we had another successful three week program with 85 scholars.

That generosity enabled these students to have core courses in neurobiology, cancer biology, special relativity, stereochemistry, human evolution, and the making of 17-gons. Scholars became active learners of science in their chemistry, biology, and computer science laboratory courses, and became active participants in science as members of eight different team projects that ranged from nucleic acid chemistry to olfactory learning and memory, from ramen-spectroscopy to forest ecology. The 2010 scholars were able to glimpse into the future at our traditional career day and college nights, and shared their amazing abilities, spirit, and diversity at our annual talent show. Weekend dances, movie nights, barbeques, dodge ball, and late night talk sessions rounded out the three packed weeks that culminated with outstanding presentations of their team project results at our final science conference.

Thanks to all of you who gave last year and made our 2010 program possible. You probably have already guessed that I am asking you to do it again. For those of you who were unable to help us last year, I hope you will be able to help us for this coming summer. While we hope to repeat, and in fact increase our success in raising gifts and grants from foundations and corporations, there is no guarantee that they will continue to be so generous. In addition the State of New Jersey remains in serious financial difficulty and the amount that we still do get from them is also not guaranteed. There are now over 2500 alumni of NJGSS. If every one of the 2500 gave $100, we would have what we need to run the program in 2011 without having to raise any additional funds. Needless to say I would be amazed (and overjoyed) if that happened. My point is that the small gifts of $50 and $100 do add up and are appreciated. Of course I also appreciate the much larger donations that some of you have been able to give and I hope they will continue.

The prospective scholars are anxious and there have already been numerous inquiries about whether there will be a program in 2011 and when applications will be posted. Our goal is to keep the program going and with your moral and financial support I know we will have another successful New Jersey Governor's School in the Sciences this coming summer.

For your information, Drew is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all of your contributions are tax deductible. We are able to take checks as well as online donations, and don't forget to find out if your employer has a matching gift policy.

If you chose to send a check, make it out to 'Drew University' and in the memo field put 'NJ Governor's School in the Sciences.' Our mailing address is:

NJ Governor's School in the Sciences
Drew University
36 Madison Ave
Madison NJ 07940

If you would like to make an online donation, you can use Drew's online form:
https://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/DRE/onlinegiving/showGivingForm.jsp?form_id=2211

In the Gift Designation area, in the pull down list, select 'Named Fund' and in the comments box put 'Governor's School in the Sciences'.

Again, we thank you for your generosity and support.

Sincerely,

David M. Miyamoto
Director, NJ Governor's School in the Sciences