



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

OFFICE OF THE
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November 22, 2012

Dear Researcher:

Many of you employ undergraduate students as research assistants to work with you in your research, scholarly work and creative activities. There are some students who obtain full or partial support from external sources such as the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's Undergraduate Research Summer Award. I commend you for your efforts to expose undergraduate students to your area of inquiry. Undergraduate students are highly appreciative of your commitment to supervise them and expose them to the innovative research, and scholarly work that goes on in the university. For several undergraduate students, working with you becomes such a profound experience that they get attracted to work in your field, become interested in pursuing graduate degrees and eventually become the next generation of highly qualified personnel. There are many more undergraduate students who would like to have such an experience but due to limited financial resources they have not been able to experience the excitement of research, scholarly work and creative activities while pursuing their undergraduate degree programs.

For the second year, my office will be offering the *Undergraduate Research Award* to provide an exciting opportunity for up to 80 undergraduate students to experience research with you and benefit from your mentoring and supervision. Selected students will receive \$6000 to spend 16 weeks being mentored in research. The funds will be provided by my office with partial support from the Faculties.

My purpose in writing this letter to you is three fold: first, to make you aware of this program and second, to solicit your support and cooperation in making this program a success for students. The process requires each student who plans to compete for one of the awards to meet with and interview two separate researchers; describe their research, scholarly work and creative activities in short 150 word paragraphs each and; then select one researcher and describe their rationale for choosing that faculty member and that particular research program. Third, once a student is selected to work with a professor, you will be asked to provide a description (250 words maximum) of how you will expose the student to your research and mentor him/her for the 16 week period.

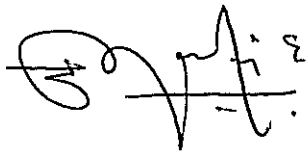
I realize this will require time on your part to meet with these students and explain your research, scholarly work and creative activities to them but I am certain that the benefit from exposing these students to your areas would be great. If you are not in a position to supervise an undergraduate student this year, you can explain your program to them and let them know that you will not be taking an award winner this year or, you can simply say no.

We believe this new initiative strengthens the U of M's ability to provide undergraduate students with a hands-on and collaborative educational experience. We are home to world-renowned researchers who have much to offer; these experiences will further facilitate the sharing of ideas and knowledge particularly with undergraduate students. We see this program as one that will strengthen our undergraduate programs while raising the profile of the significant range of research being undertaken here at the University of Manitoba.

I sincerely thank you in advance for your support and participation in this pilot project and hope you can help promote this program by sending students to the link:

www.umanitoba.ca/experienceresearch to learn more about this exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Digvir S. Jayas', written over a horizontal line.

Digvir S. Jayas, Ph.D., P.Eng., P.Ag.,

Vice-President (Research and International) and Distinguished Professor

CC: Dr. G. Glavin

Dr. J. Blatz

Deans

ADR/RLO