NI BLACK RESEARCH SCHOLARS
PROGRAM INFORMATION

**Primary Objective:** to develop and foster undergraduate student interest in scholarly research within the various disciplines at Oklahoma State University

- Scholars are assigned to research activities with a faculty sponsor and a graduate student mentor who provide professional guidance, encouragement, and direction.

- Scholars spend two to five hours per week working with their assigned mentors in a hands-on laboratory environment during the fall and spring semesters.

- During the summer, a minimum of 20 hours per week for two months in the laboratory is expected. Although, the total hours agreed upon with the faculty sponsor are dependent upon other activities (enrollment, etc.) with the program expectation of full-time participation for two months. Additionally, the specific two month period during the summer is negotiable between you and your faculty sponsor.

- Scholars receive an award of $2,000 per semester (fall and spring) and $4,000 (for June and July) totaling $8,000. Awards will be credited to the scholar’s bursar account by September 1, January 15 and June 15 (pending satisfactory progress and performance).

- The graduate mentor receives a research assistantship of $2,100 to be received during the summer months (3 x $700/month). An account number will be provided to the mentor’s department to be used for this research assistantship funding.

- The faculty sponsor will provide oversight of the project and its progress.

- This award is not intended to provide faculty members with assistants, but to provide students with a valuable educational experience not available to most undergraduate students.

- Scholars must report to their faculty sponsor by the end of the first week of the semester or the award will be terminated.

- The research project and schedule is determined between the scholar and faculty sponsor.

- Scholars must enroll in three hours of academic credit (1 hour each fall, spring and summer semester). A UNIV 2910 Niblack Research Scholars course is established each semester for this purpose.

- The amount of the award does NOT include lab supplies or expenses.

- A brief status report will be required before the subsequent semester’s stipend is approved (due in the Office of the Vice President for Research in November and April). Awards are renewed for the second semester pending satisfactory progress and performance.

- A final report will be due in the Office of the Vice President for Research by mid-August.

- Students must maintain full-time enrollment status during the fall and spring semesters (minimum of 12 hours).

- Scholars are often given the opportunity to continue working with faculty researchers beyond this award, at the discretion of the faculty sponsor.