



PPG Foundation Donates \$103,000 to University of Pittsburgh

08/11/2015

Grants support programs across engineering school and chemistry department

PITTSBURGH--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Aug. 11, 2015-- The PPG Industries Foundation has donated \$103,000 to the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) for programs in its engineering school and chemistry department. The funding supports PPG Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows in the Swanson School of Engineering, two PPG Industries Foundation Graduate Fellows in Civil and Environmental Engineering, and the annual undergraduate chemistry laboratory poster session.

"These research-related experiences offered by Pitt's engineering and chemistry departments promote academic excellence by encouraging students to develop a better understanding of how the scientific process relates to the real world," said Sue Sloan, executive director, PPG Industries Foundation. "Students participating in these programs will learn how to combine scientific learning and research with practical communication skills, which better prepares them for future professional opportunities in science and engineering fields."

Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering received \$50,000 to support 12 PPG Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships. The fellows, who are undergraduate engineering students, are working full-time during the summer alongside a faculty mentor, who may be from any department at Pitt or even from another university, on an approved research project. At the end of the summer, each fellow will submit a two-page abstract on his or her research to the department and to the university's Science 2015 Student Poster Fair held in October -- the most prominent on-campus student poster session of the year.

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Pitt also received \$50,000 to fund two PPG Industries Foundation Graduate Fellows for one year. Fellow Xiao 'Sean' Ma, in the lab of Assistant Professor Kyle Bibby, has been working on drinking-water treatment and biofilm growth on antifouling coatings. Fellow Omkar Lokare, who is working with Radisav Vidic, the William Kepler Whiteford Professor and Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering, is evaluating the potential of membrane distillation for treatment of produced water from unconventional gas industry. In addition to funding the PPG Industries Foundation Graduate Fellows' research efforts, the grant funds opportunities for the students to visit off-campus laboratories, seeing different intellectual and research environments and enhancing university-industry collaborations.

Also, a \$3,000 PPG Industries Foundation grant to the Department of Chemistry helped fund Pitt's undergraduate chemistry laboratory poster session. Annually, over 400 students enrolled in upper-level chemistry laboratory courses prepare posters explaining experimentation that they conduct. The students' posters and presentations are graded by faculty members, judges and peers who assess how well each student describes the goal, results and conclusion of his or her research.

"The support PPG and its foundation provide to Pitt's engineering and chemistry programs is helping us offer research and enrichment opportunities to additional students," said Gerald D. Holder, Ph.D., the university's U.S. Steel Dean of Engineering. "The fellowships and undergraduate poster session offer our students experience in conducting important research projects and then developing skills to convey their methods and findings through posters and presentations, and to professionals working in non-university environments."

The PPG Industries Foundation aims to create brighter, more colorful communities where PPG has a presence in the United States. By investing in educational opportunities, we help grow today's skilled workforce and develop tomorrow's innovators in research and development, manufacturing, information technology and other careers related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Plus, we empower PPG employees to make an impact for causes that are important to them by supporting their volunteer efforts and charitable giving. Learn more at www.ppgcommunities.com.

About the University of Pittsburgh

Located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh is a state-related research university, founded as the Pittsburgh Academy in 1787. Pitt is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), which comprises 62 preeminent doctorate-granting research institutions in North America. Nearly 29,000 students are enrolled in the University's 17 undergraduate and graduate schools. For further information, visit www.pitt.edu.

PPG: BRINGING INNOVATION TO THE SURFACE.®

PPG Industries' vision is to be the world's leading coatings company by consistently delivering high-quality, innovative and sustainable solutions that customers trust to protect and beautify their products and surroundings. Through leadership in innovation, sustainability and color, PPG provides added value to customers in construction, consumer products, industrial and transportation markets and aftermarkets to enhance more surfaces in more ways than does any other company. Founded in 1883, PPG has global headquarters in Pittsburgh and operates in more than 70 countries

around the world. Reported net sales in 2014 were \$15.4 billion. PPG shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange (symbol:PPG). For more information, visit www.ppg.com and follow [@PPGIndustries](https://twitter.com/PPGIndustries) on Twitter.

Bringing innovation to the surface is a registered trademark of PPG Industries Ohio, Inc.

View source version on businesswire.com: <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20150811006062/en/>

Source: PPG Industries, Inc.

PPG Industries, Inc.

K.C. McCrory, 412-434-2445

kmccrory@ppg.com