

BUDGET NEEDS ASSESSMENT APPLICATION
Fall 2016

Name of Person Submitting Request:	Todd Heibel
Program or Service Area:	Geography
Division:	Science
Date of Last Program Efficacy:	SP 15
What rating was given?	Continuation
Amount Requested:	\$500
Object Code:	5809
Strategic Initiatives Addressed: (See http://www.valleycollege.edu/about-sbvc/office-of-president/college_planning_documents/documents/strategic-plan-report-working-doc-8-25-15-2.pdf)	Access; Student Success; Communication, Culture, and Climate; and Leadership and Professional Development

Note: To facilitate ranking by the committee, please submit separate requests for each general area of budget augmentation needed. Do not request a lump sum to encompass many different areas.

One-Time Ongoing

Does program or service area have an existing budget? Yes No

Are there alternative funding sources? (for example, Department, Budget, Perkins, Grants, etc.)

Yes No

If yes, what are they: _____

1. Provide a rationale for your request (Give a detailed explanation of why this budget increase is needed.)

Currently, there is **no Geography Department budget for conference attendance**. While the Professional Development Committee provides limited (and gracious) funding to faculty for conference attendance, these funds are quite limited and **generally exclude student attendance and participation**. By having its own funding, Geography students have the freedom to attend at least one local or regional conference during each academic year. Therefore, the department requests \$500 for annual **conference attendance**. This is **growth funding** that the institution would support on an annual basis. In other words, this is not a one-time, stopgap request, as this growth funding is needed on an ongoing, annual basis.

2. Indicate how the content of the department/program's latest Efficacy Report and/or current EMP supports this request and how the request is tied to program planning. (Directly reference the relevant information from your latest Efficacy Report and/or current EMP in your discussion.)

The current Geography EMP Action Plan states that the department will "Increase the number of Geography graduates and transfer students by cultivating expanded university, grant, scholarship, **research**, internship, and career opportunities." In addition, the Spring 2015 Geography-GIS Efficacy document calls for increased student participation in local, regional, state, and national conferences on pages 12 and 35.

3. Indicate any additional information you want the committee to consider (for example, regulatory information, compliance, updated efficiency, student success data, or planning, etc.).

Students must engage in rigorous, original research and learn to appropriately publish and present research findings within a professional venue. Anecdotal evidence suggests that community college students who participate in professional conferences exhibit higher success, transfer, and employment rates than students who are not exposed to such opportunities. For example, students will have the opportunity to participate in a marketplace of ideas, gain soft skills, and experience leading-edge research (<http://blogs.plos.org/thestudentblog/2014/02/24/every-science-student-should-attend-conference>, accessed on October 26, 2016).

4. Indicate any related costs (including any ongoing maintenance or updates) and department/program plans to support those costs.

The \$500 budget request is anticipated to cover conference registration, travel, and (limited) lodging expenses for students. These costs can and do increase over time, and the department will likely seek additional funding through the Program Review Needs Assessment process, as well as through ancillary grant activities.

5. What are the consequences of not funding this budget request?

Many SBVC students are of limited financial means and do not realize the value of professional conference participation. If this budget request is not funded, then geography students will continue to be disenfranchised from valuable conference and related research experience. They will lack experience afforded to other community college and university-level undergraduate students. Therefore, our students may be deprived of transfer, career, scholarship and other opportunities that will greatly assist them in future years.