

## **Student Mentoring Program - Information about the FSEA Meeting Attendance Award**

### **What is FSEA?**

The Florida Society of Environmental Analysts was formed in 1978 by a group of professional analysts interested in maintaining a high level of technical excellence in the collection, analysis, and interpretation of environmental data. Because of the rapid increase in the number of laboratories and the increasing complexity associated with identifying more sophisticated chemical analyses, it had become imperative that some uniformity of procedures, quality control, professional ethics, and integrity be established. From the beginning, it was agreed that these problems were best resolved from within the community of practicing analysts in cooperation with State and Federal agencies. The founders saw a professional society as the appropriate forum for the dialogue necessary to deal fairly and intelligently with these concerns. Accordingly, the Florida Society of Environmental Analysts, Inc. was chartered as a non-profit corporation by the State of Florida on May 2, 1979.

Over the years, FSEA has continued to grow and expand in order to meet the goals of the Society, which are to:

- Promote professionalism and knowledge of environmental analysts;
- Promote guidelines for education and training for environmental analysts;
- Promote standards of excellence in the field of quality control, including a code of ethics;
- Act as a liaison between the regulatory agencies and membership;
- Take a leadership role in promotion of environmental programs and mentoring; and
- Evaluate new analytical procedures.

### **Who is involved with FSEA?**

Currently, FSEA members and officers come from all areas of the environmental field; from biologists to chemists, from limnologists to oceanographers, from commercial laboratories to municipalities, and industrial laboratories to research laboratories. Anyone interested in the environmental analysis field is welcome to apply for membership.

Florida Society of Environmental Analysts members have been active in:

- Holding semi-annual meetings, in which programs and speakers have been both relevant and informative;
- Presenting analytical practices workshops for certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant operators;
- Providing an information forum to the membership through the FSEA Website, periodic newsletters, and special announcements;
- Servicing the environmental community by providing a forum to discuss the latest trends in the field, including changes in methodology and regulatory issues;
- Enhancing the ethics, good practice, and status of the individual analyst through active educational programs; and
- Listening and responding to the needs of its constituents and the environment.

### **The FSEA Student Mentoring Program Mission Statement**

The mission of the Student Mentoring Program of the FSEA is to promote interest among young people in the environmental analytical industry. This is done by fostering and encouraging students pursuing degrees in science to actively seek membership and support of the FSEA by developing relationships with environmental and chemistry professors of accredited schools in Florida. Additionally it is the program's goal to facilitate the introduction of future environmental analysts to the environmental industry, including: regulatory agencies, municipality laboratories, private laboratories, instrument and equipment manufacturers and vendors, and environmental consultants and engineers.

### **What is the FSEA Meeting Attendance Award?**

Twice each year, FSEA holds a 3-day conference for its members in order to keep them up-to-date on the latest topics in the environmental analytical industry. The FSEA Meeting Attendance Award is offered to high achieving students in the field of environmental analysis. This award is sponsored by FSEA and many of its conference exhibitors, thus assisting interested students in attending the conference at no charge. In addition, the Meeting Attendance Award automatically makes you an FSEA member for the current year so you can keep abreast of upcoming industry issues, instrumentation, and other meetings or functions.

### **How are you selected to receive the FSEA Meeting Attendance Award?**

The Executive Committee for FSEA will review all applicants and will make their selections based on criteria such as: major, future career plans, GPA, etc.

### **What happens if you are selected to receive the FSEA Meeting Attendance Award?**

If you are selected to receive the meeting attendance award you will be contacted by either the FSEA Contracted Manager or by the Student Mentor Coordinator. You will be asked to review your schedule and determine if you are available and interested in attending the conference as soon as possible. If you are unable or not interested in attending, your prompt response to your professors and to FSEA will allow FSEA to offer the award to another deserving student. If you are interested in attending the conference, you will be sent information regarding registration for the conference. You must complete your registration by the deadline. FSEA will cover all reasonable expenses including your hotel room, mileage to and from the conference and meals. You will be asked to provide an expense report at the conclusion of the conference.

If you have a poster and would like to present it at the meeting you will need to notify the Contracted Manager at the time you register. Posters must to be mounted on a board prior to displaying them – FSEA will provide you with an easel.

You will be assigned a mentor at the meeting who will assist you with any questions as well as introduce you to other members in the Society. You are expected to attend all sessions and to be on-time. You will also assist with duties such as passing out handouts for sessions and working at the registration desk. Proper attire for the meeting is business casual.