For Immediate Release
Contact:  Jody Cofer Randall, URSA Program Coordinator
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Hale and Smith Receive URSA Travel Support Grants

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) has awarded two Travel Support Grants in the amount of $257 each to Aaron Hale and Amanda Smith. Travel Support Grants are intended to support undergraduate students accepted to present research at a professional conference or gathering. A portion of this grant is intended to fund their poster expenses.

Hale is a senior middle school education major in the College of Education, emphasizing in English and social studies. His presentation is entitled, “Middle School Students’ Perceptions of Behavioral Functioning: Validation Pilot for Measuring Perceptions of One’s Own Behavior.” The project seeks to validate instrumentation meant to analyze students’ perceptions of the frequency in which they exhibit bullying-type behaviors and the social contexts in which this occurs.

Smith is a senior elementary education major in the College of Education. Her presentation is entitled, “The Effects of Color on Students’ Perceptions of Personalities.” The project centers on the psychological and physiological responses to color. Smith’s study looks to determine how the color of an individual’s clothing affects perceptions of whether or not the individual is friendly. She will utilize responses from students at the Kindergarten level through the 12th grade and adults.

Both Hale and Smith plan to present their findings in New Orleans, Louisiana at the International Organization of Social Sciences and Behavioral Research held from October 14th through October 15th of this year.

Dr. Brandi J. King, assistant professor in the Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education, will serve as faculty mentor for both projects.

More information about the URSA program can be found online at http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/ursa/ or by calling (270) 809-3192.