**THE DOW SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATION STUDENT CHALLENGE**

**2013-2014 Academic Year**

**APPLICATIONS DUE: October 27, 2013**

**FINALISTS NOTIFIED: November 5, 2013**

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED: November 14, 2013**

OVERVIEW

Environmental education, scholarship and engagement have defined Tufts University for more than a quarter of a century. In 1990, Tufts was the driving force in establishing the Talloires Declaration, an action plan for incorporating sustainability in higher education. Tufts continues to be a leader in fostering sustainability in its broadest terms through the Tufts Institute of the Environment and several university-wide initiatives including participation in the 2009 Solar Decathlon, partnership with the Stockholm Environment Institute, the construction of Sophia Gordon Hall, and the establishment of the Office of Sustainability.

Tufts leadership in sustainability has been recognized by The Dow Chemical Company by selection of Tufts as one of only six strategic global universities (Cambridge University, Northwestern University, Peking University, Tufts University, University of Michigan, and University of Sao Paolo), invited to compete in a yearly Dow Sustainability Innovation Student Challenge. Now in its second year, this competition is an important component of Dow’s commitment to sustainability (see <http://www.dow.com/sustainability>).

Two Tufts graduate students or graduate student teams will be recognized as one winner and one runner-up for innovations that target broad global sustainability challenges. All degree matriculated post-baccalaureate Tufts students (Masters, Ph.D., or Professional Doctorate) are eligible. The overall winner will receive a prize of $10,000, and the runner-up will receive a prize of $5,000 to be used at their discretion, without regard to their financial aid status.

SELECTION CRITERIA

There are few restrictions on the topics of the submissions. The application can describe an innovative concept, device, product, process, or system. Academic or non-academic work can be the basis of the application. However, the work must be currently underway or have been completed during the applicant’s tenure at Tufts.

Applicants should address explicitly the extent to which their innovation:

- has significant impact in the focus area,

- can be scaled,

- could be implemented,

- can be evaluated for efficacy,

- avoids unintended consequences,

- is interdisciplinary in nature, and

- is due primarily to intellectual creativity of the applicants, rather than advisors or non-applicant collaborators.

Applicants are also encouraged to discuss how their projects relate to the Dow

Sustainability Goals. In addition, the selection committee will evaluate adherence to the deadlines and stated content/format specifications. Please note that the application is not a grant application; budget justifications or requests should not be included.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Each student or student team must submit an application addressing the selection criteria. The application should begin with a completed cover sheet (see Appendix). The narrative with any appropriate figures or tables should not exceed 4 pages (1” margins, 12 point Times New Roman font). Applicants should also append a bibliography (one-page maximum) and curriculum vitae (one page maximum). In the case of ongoing academic work, applicants should also include a written statement from their mentor(s) documenting that the innovation is primarily the work of the applicant(s). The application must be submitted electronic with PDF documents by 11:59pm on October 27, 2013 to Theresa.Silver@tufts.edu.

Applications will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary selection committee consisting of Dr. Antje Danielson—Administrative Director, Tufts Institute of the Environment; Dr. Sandy Yulke—Associate Director, Corporate & Foundation Relations; Dr. Janet Forrester—Associate Professor, School of Medicine; Dr. Sean Cash—Associate Professor, Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy; Dr. Luisa Chiesa—Assistant Professor, School of Engineering; Dr. Chris Whittier—Assistant Professor, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine; and Dr. Kathleen O’Connell—Director Electronic Materials Research, Dow Advanced Materials.

A subset of applicants will be selected as finalists. Finalists will be asked to prepare and deliver a 10 minute oral presentation followed by 10 minutes of questions on their innovation. The winner, runners-up and honorable mentions will be selected from this group. All Tufts award recipients will be required to commit to attend the Tufts-only award ceremony in December, 2013.

CONTACTS

For technical questions, contact Tufts Institute of the Environment (TIE) Administrative Director Antje Danielson at Antje.Danielson@tufts.edu.

For questions related to application submittal, contact Theresa Silver – TIE Office Assistant - Theresa.Silver@tufts.edu or 7-3645.

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2013-2014 APPLICATION COVER SHEET

TITLE:

APPLICANT(S) – NAME, DEGREE PROGRAM, SCHOOL AFFILIATION, PHONE

NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESS, NAME OF FACULTY MENTOR(S)

ABSTRACT – (200 WORDS MAXIMIUM)

TEXT AND FIGURES MUST NOT EXCEED 4 PAGES

12 PT, TIMES NEW ROMAN, 1” MARGINS

APPENDICES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (1 page maximum)

CURRICULUM VITAE

(1 page maximum)

MENTOR STATEMENT (if applicable)