

BRENDA TESSMANN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION FUND

This Education Fund was established by the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics in 2020 in recognition of Brenda V. Tessmann for her outstanding contributions to MMG laboratory teaching and undergraduate advising since 1987.

For the last 34 years, Brenda has been a grounding force and leader of the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics' (MMG) educational mission. Her commitment to students is without peer. She has been honored with multiple awards for her teaching excellence and served as the Co-Director of the MMG Undergraduate Program and the Founding Director of the CALS Honors College Program. Brenda has given generously and tirelessly of her time to all of us. Her incredible passion, dedication, empathy, and integrity have positively impacted generations of MMG students and alumni, and all others around her! She has been a one-of-a-kind teacher, colleague, and friend.

Upon her retirement, to honor Brenda's contributions to the Department and the University of Vermont, we have created a new fund in Brenda's name: The Brenda Tessmann Undergraduate Education Fund.

The Fund will continue for as long as current-use gifts sufficient to sustain the Fund are received and, after the principal of the Fund reaches the minimum to be a permanent endowment, the Fund will continue in perpetuity.

AWARD CRITERIA

Distributions from the Fund will be made in recognition of excellence in the study of Microbiology within the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. Awards are available to Microbiology (MICR) majors who are entering their Junior or Senior year. Preference will be given to Vermont residents who have expressed an interest in pursuing a career in microbiology. Students must be in good academic standing with at least a 3.2 GPA and be eligible for financial assistance with UVM's Financial Aid Office. The award (\$1,000) will be given to one student per year.

The final determination will be at the discretion of the Chair and Vice Chair of Education of the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics in consultation with Student Financial Services in accordance with University policies and procedures as well as applicable laws.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are due by January 31st using the attached form. They will be reviewed and the awardee will be contacted by February 28th. Awardees will be expected to write a letter at the end of their experience, acknowledging the receipt of the award and describing the impact it has made.

Questions about this award should be directed to mmg@med.uvm.edu or call 802-656-2164.

