

## **Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit: Excellent**

### **Explanation to the applicant:**

You have demonstrated an excellent record of academic preparation. You have also demonstrated your ability to work as part of a team and independently. You have a great start on your way to communicating your scientific findings, as evidenced by your publications and the presentation. You have done a good job of conceptualizing your hypothesis statement, research plan and research questions.

## **Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts: Very Good**

### **Explanation to the applicant:**

You have partially addressed the Broader Impacts criterion by mentioning items in your research plan. This is a great start. You have also mentioned your past actions. The question is what is your plan to accomplish this in the future. You need more than an interest in this criterion, you must address it with similar vigor as the intellectual merit criterion. For example, how will you effectively integrate research and education at all levels, infuse learning with the excitement of discovery, encourage diversity, broaden opportunities, enable participation and enhance scientific and technical understanding. You also addressed this criterion under your research plan. I thought that made your proposal stand out from the crowd.

## **Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit: Excellent**

### **Explanation to the applicant:**

The applicant has an excellent track record in research, both as a college students and afterward while working as a restoration ecologist. She has worked both independently on her own projects and as a member of a team. Collaborators and mentors both laud her maturity, drive, resourcefulness and passion for her work. Her proposed project shows an excellent grasp of the literature in the area and integration of ideas to solve a practical and important problem-the disappearance of pollinating bee populations. She is clearly passionate about research and shows great promise in the field.

## **Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts: Good**

### **Explanation to the applicant:**

The applicants undergraduate honor's research was a excellent example of highly successful of translational research. The applicant spotted a potential weakness with BF coffee certification, designed a project to test her hypothesis and her data supported changes in BF policy. However, merely giving her results to the Smithsonian may not affect policy and involving the citizens/ farmers of the

area in outreach may have improved the project's reach and impact. She did directly aid the locale of the research by contributing a field guide to birds in the area, thus promoting ecotourism. Her proposed project will also provide important and practical information for farmers. For her project she proposed conducting annual workshops for farmers based on her results, which is a very small effort. Concentrating on creative ways to involve/educate the public would make this project stronger and its impact more broadly felt.

### **Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit: Excellent**

#### **Explanation to the applicant:**

This applicant has a very strong academic record with a really nice research experience in Nicaragua that was original and innovative. The application could be improved with experience in peer-reviewed journal publications. The proposed research seems reasonable for the applicant. It would have been nice to see the applicant argue for how they became interested in the topic in the previous research essay. The plan itself pulled out a nice conflict...this could have been better emphasized in the hypotheses. Furthermore, the applicant could have given more details on the project design - such as how often do you have to go out to sample flowers to make the project work?

### **Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts: Very Good**

#### **Explanation to the applicant:**

The applicant shows some strong evidence of working in the outreach side of environmental science and education. This is very admirable. What could improve the application is some vision of how the applicant might build on these experiences to create opportunities in integrating research and education in their graduate studies. Finally - the applicant could work to improve the articulation of why the research is important so that it might reach a broader audience - why should the average citizen care about biodiversity?