



Chapter Grant Awards Application

- 1.) **Name of Chapter:** Lehigh Valley SFN Chapter
- 2.) **Number of Currently Joining Chapter Members:**
Faculty Members: 30 **Staff Members:** 2 **Postdoctoral Trainees:** 5
Graduate Students: 5 **Undergraduate Students:** 75
- 3.) **Chapter Representative Contact Information:**
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- 4.) **Chapter Treasurer Contact Information:**
Name: Sarah Johnson
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- 5.) **Checks Payable to:** Moravian College (Subject line: *Lehigh Valley SFN Chapter*)
- 6.) **Mailing Address for Checks:** Dr. Sarah Johnson
Moravian College – Dept. of Psychology
1200 Main Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

Society for Neuroscience Chapter Grant Application
On behalf of the Lehigh Valley SFN Chapter

Submitted February 2, 2009

Event: Brain Awareness Week Outreach Program: *A Service Learning Experience Designed by Students and Faculty from the Lehigh Valley colleges in cooperation with the DaVinci Discovery Center of Science and Technology*

Date: March 16-22, 2009

Location: The DaVinci Discovery Center of Science and Technology, Allentown, PA

Event Description and Goals:

The newly formed Lehigh Valley SFN Chapter is submitting this grant application to support its outreach programming for the upcoming Brain Awareness Week. Neuroscience students from the colleges in the Lehigh Valley propose to partner with the DaVinci Discovery Center of Science and Technology to host a week long service learning experience for the local community. According to a 2004 member survey from Campus Compact, a national coalition of more than 950 college and university presidents, the “engaged campus” is an emerging model for community and academic life in higher education. Through student and faculty participation in service learning, community partnerships and campus infrastructures to support service work, colleges are becoming engaged in educating students for responsible citizenship in ways that deepen their learning and improve the quality of academic life.

This Brain Awareness Week outreach program is designed to promote public awareness of the functions of the central nervous system as well as current advances in brain and spinal cord research. Our chapter plans to provide “hands-on” neuroscience activities for children (K-8th grade) and general neuroscience information for their families. The students will be responsible for establishing the learning outcomes for each activity as well as assessing the overall experience in achieving these outcomes. Packets of relevant and appropriate neuroscience educational information will also be made available for elementary and middle school teachers attending this event for use in their classroom experiences. The following is a sample of some of the stations that have been designed so far: Read White and Blue (Stroop effect), Let’s Check Out Your Brain Waves (EEG exercise), Cow Brains and Sheep Brains and Rat Brains, Oh My! (comparative brain dissection) and Liar Liar! (galvanic skin responses). Entrance and exit surveys will be designed to assess whether the learning outcomes were sufficiently addressed at each activity as a tool to strengthen this program.

In the past, Moravian College has offered a one day program entitled, Brain Awareness Day at the DaVinci Discovery Center. By proposing a collaborative program among the colleges in the Lehigh Valley, the resources, technology and faculty expertise will only serve to enhance this overall service learning experience. Furthermore, the program may be able to offer new educational events such as “Ask the Neuroscientist” and host additional informational sessions such as “The Ethics of Neuroscience”. The DaVinci Discovery Center has already expressed its support of this initiative and will publicize the event, thereby offering an avenue to increase membership and activity of this new SFN chapter. The outcomes of this Brain Awareness Program will be shared at the Brain Awareness Week Outreach Social at the next Society for Neuroscience and NEURON conferences as well as on the Moravian College and Lehigh Valley SFN Chapter websites.

This event supports several components of the Society for Neuroscience’s strategic plan as stated on its website: “to advance the understanding of the brain and the nervous system by bringing together scientists of diverse backgrounds”....(from Lehigh University to St. Luke’s Hospital to liberal arts colleges such as Moravian College) , to “provide professional development activities, information, and educational resources for neuroscientists at all stages of their careers (including undergraduates, graduates)”, to “promote public information and general education about the nature of scientific discovery and the results and implications of the latest neuroscience research” and to “support active and continuing discussions on ethical issues relating to the conduct and outcomes of neuroscience research”.

Budget Request for \$1000:

Supplies for neuroscience stations:	\$500.00
Resources for elementary and middle school educators:	\$200.00
T-shirts for student/faculty presenters:	\$300.00

The DaVinci Discovery Center will support this program by providing space for the event at no charge. The following colleges in the Lehigh Valley have expressed interest in contributing matching funds/supplies to support their designed neuroscience activities: Moravian College, Muhlenberg College, Cedar Crest College, Lafayette College and Lehigh University.

Previous Chapter Sponsored Events: None. This will be the first sponsored event for the Lehigh Valley SFN Chapter.

Chapter Web Page: Will be designed in the future.

