



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
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Dear Colleague:

This is an invitation for faculty and instructional staff at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the United States. I am writing to invite you to attend the 2009 meeting of the Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE). This meeting will be held at the University of Delaware, Newark, DE, June 9-12, 2009. You may learn more about ABLE and this upcoming meeting at www.ableweb.org

We are seeking faculty and staff who have not previously attended an ABLE meeting. If you agree to participate, we will provide the following support (provided by a National Science Foundation Grant):

- Travel expenses to and from the meeting site, not to exceed \$500.
- ABLE registration fee.
- Room fees (single room in a dormitory) for four nights on the University of Delaware campus.
- Meals (per diem of \$50 per day for four days, three days at conference and one travel day). The per diem will be paid as a lump sum of \$200 at the meeting.

Please note that the 2009 ABLE meeting will have optional field trips on Tuesday, June 9 and on Saturday, June 13 that you are welcome to attend at your own cost. Similarly, there will be an end of conference banquet on Friday evening, June 12, for which you may use your per diem funds.

Your commitment to attend this meeting would entail the following:

- Arrive at the University of Delaware on or before Tuesday, June 9, 2009.
- Attend a total of four major-workshops at ABLE on Wednesday and Thursday, June 10 and 11, including our workshop on using bean beetles, *Callosobruchus maculatus*, in undergraduate laboratory teaching.
- Attend mini-workshops and the poster session on Friday, June 12.
- Implement a bean beetle experiment in an undergraduate laboratory course at your home institution in the 12 months following this meeting.
- Complete follow-up questionnaires about the ABLE meeting and the implementation of a bean beetle experiment, and collect student assessment data at your home institution.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience if you are willing to commit to this meeting. We plan to support eight faculty in 2009 and would be very pleased for you to be among that group.

You may learn more about the laboratory protocols we have developed using bean beetles by visiting our website: www.beanbeetles.org

I look forward to hearing from you.

Larry Blumer
Professor

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