

FY2026 STEP Award List-Summary

Applicant	Department	School/College	Project Title:
Abbey Hepner	Art and Design (71050)	CAS	Hiraeth: The Story of Uravan
Aimee Clinger	Art and Design (71050)	CAS	Examining Paradoxical “War on Illness” Metaphors through Creative Activities Based Research Utilizing Masked Stereolithography Technology
Ashiq Sakib	Electrical and Computer Engineering (73100)	SOE	A Design Framework for the Automated Synthesis, Advanced Optimization, and Verification of Quasi-Delay Insensitive (QDI) Asynchronous Circuits
Donavan Ramon	English Language and Literature (73200)	CAS	Fight Scenes and Self-Making in Black Men Memoirs
Guim Kwon	Pharmaceutical Sciences (76430)	SOP	Effects of AdipoRon on pancreatic beta-cell function and survival under nutrient overload.
Joshua Wooten	Applied Health (71025)	SEHHB	Using the Biopsychosocial Model to Predict Optimal Recovery Strategies in Female Athletes
Robert Paulett	History (74750)	CAS	The Breeches of Britain: Leather, Scotland, and the British Empire in the 1700s
Saad Ullah	Civil Engineering (71900)	SOE	Development and Evaluation of Chemically Synthesized Spider Silk for Sustainable Geotextile Solutions
Sarah Luesse	Chemistry (71850)	CAS	Synthesis of Polymer-Supported Phenol and Alcohol Reagents
Tianyu Li	Geography (74450)	CAS	Where Do Bees Thrive? Enhancing Food Security in Southern Illinois Through Pollinator Habitat Analysis Using Geospatial Science and Artificial Intelligence (GeoAI)
Yadong Wang	Electrical and Computer Engineering (73100)	SOE	Integration of Artificial Intelligence Methods and Dual-Frequency Dual-Polarization in Weather Radar Signal Processing