Jeff Becker is the former department chair of the Microbiology Department. During this career, Dr. Becker saw the educational value for undergraduates to engage in meaningful research experiences, and the important contributions undergraduates make to their research labs. The goal of this award is to inspire and support young scientists considering a career in scientific research. Thus, two awards of $1,000 will be given to UTK students at the beginning of the Fall 2017 semester to support their successful balance of independent research with their coursework. Students who are enrolled to perform research for credit (e.g. MICR 401, MICR 402, or MICR 493) in the Fall 2017 semester are invited to apply to the department for this award.

Although this award is open to all students enrolled in MICR 401, MICR 402, or MICR 493, preference will be given to those individuals with research-oriented career goals. Students interested in applying for this award should submit:

❖ A one-page letter addressing the proposed research project, their career goals/interests, and how they feel this experience will enable them to achieve their goals.
❖ A recent academic history.
❖ A letter of support from the Microbiology faculty member in whose lab they will perform their research.

All application materials should be submitted to the Department of Microbiology (microbiology@utk.edu) no later than April 16, 2018. Successful applicants will be notified of the outcome of the competition by April 20, 2018.