



Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

For Immediate Release

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Tanner-Gray Receives Undergraduate Research Grant

Lucas Tanner-Gray was recently awarded a \$500 grant from the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) for his proposal entitled "The Economist's Sandbox: Economic Research in Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Games."

Tanner-Gray, a senior economics major from Golconda, Ill., will be comparing the economies present in massively multiplayer online role playing games (MMORPGs) World of Warcraft and EVE Online to economies in the real world. He will also examine the potential for these games to be used for controlled economic experiments.

Dr. David Eaton, Professor of Economics, will serve as faculty mentor on the project. "Lucas is very interested in online gaming and thus the topic is something he will do well with. I think this a very clever project which takes advantage of individual behavior in a controlled environment to possibly study the impact of policy changes on the economy," Eaton stated.

Tanner-Gray plans to present his findings during *Posters-at-the-Capitol* in Frankfort, Ky., on January 28, 2010 and during *Scholars Week*, which will take place on Murray State's main campus April 19-23, 2010.

More information about the URSA program can be found online at <http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/ursa/> or by calling (270) 809-3192.