**One-page personal statement explaining the relevance and importance of attending the conference and nature of presentation (be detailed!)**

I am requesting financial assistance via the Teck-Kah Lim Travel Subsidy Award because I lack critical support to present my research at the 236th annual American Astronomical Society (AAS) conference. In my research I use a novel software environment and the computation capabilities of the Dutch national supercomputing cluster Cartesius to study stellar feedback of embedded O-type stars and its effect on star cluster evolution. The software I employ allows me to design some of the most accurate star formation simulations ever. The uniqueness of my research, my drive to become a better scientist, and scientific communication skills will be greatly enhanced by my ability to attend AAS this summer.

To excel as a scientist, researcher, and in my professional life it is imperative that I be able to effectively and passionately communicate my research, my thoughts, and my hypotheses. As I progress further into the fascinating depths of my astrophysical research, such communication becomes inherently more difficult. Although I do not lack passion for my work, the expression of my work and passion to a general audience requires constant practice. A poster presentation at the American Astronomical Society (AAS) is a perfectly designed environment for me to challenge my communication skills and receive such practice. Specifically, my participation at the 236th AAS conference involves the production and presentation of an ePoster showcasing my research methods, videos of my simulations, data analysis, and conclusions.

The American Astronomical Society (AAS), founded in 1899, now has nearly 9000 active members. With a mission to expand, share, and improve humanity’s understanding of the universe, AAS conferences are a unique opportunity for students to interact and connect with the nation’s top researchers in astronomy and astrophysics. Personally, this summer’s conference will allow me to present my research that will become my Ph.D. thesis and ultimately provide me with valuable feedback, advice and exposure. In addition, the bridged software suites that I employ in my research—FLASH and AMUSE—are utilized and contributed to by hundreds of users, some of whom regularly attend AAS meetings. Therefore, my continued presence at AAS conferences will lend to strengthened relationships with users and developers of the software vital to my thesis work. In addition, AAS also offers complementary workshops such as Hackathons, astrophysical literacy, networking programs, and professional advice panels.

The 236th AAS conference takes place on May 31st through June 4th. Registration, travel costs, lodging, and food amount to about $900. The Teck-Kah Lim Travel Subsidy Award of $400 for poster presentations will greatly reduce the personal financial burden of the conference and will ultimately allow me to experience AAS and its benefits in its entirety.

Why is a continued presence at AAS beneficial for my future?

(eventually present talk; make connections)

Presenting a poster

(about what? Why is this material important to present at AAS?)