

# Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP)

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## Program Solicitation

NSF 08-533

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*Replaces Document(s):*

NSF 04-602

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### National Science Foundation

Directorate for Education & Human Resources  
Division of Human Resource Development

#### Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

April 10, 2008

Innovation through Institutional Integration

October 20, 2008

October 20, Annually Thereafter

TCUP Implementation Projects

#### Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

Proposals Accepted Anytime

TCUP Planning Projects

## REVISION NOTES

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In furtherance of the President's Management Agenda, NSF has identified programs that will offer proposers the option to utilize Grants.gov to prepare and submit proposals, or will require that proposers utilize Grants.gov to prepare and submit proposals. Grants.gov provides a single Government-wide portal for finding and applying for Federal grants online.

In response to this program solicitation, proposers may opt to submit proposals via [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) or via the [NSF FastLane](#) system. In determining which method to utilize in the electronic preparation and submission of the proposal, please note the following:

**Collaborative Proposals.** All collaborative proposals submitted as separate submissions from multiple organizations must be submitted via the [NSF FastLane](#) system. Chapter II, Section D.3 of the Grant Proposal Guide provides additional information on collaborative proposals.

The planning proposal level has been changed to a no-deadline-date format. TCUP-eligible institutions of higher education that have not yet received a planning grant are encouraged to contact a TCUP program director for guidance on submission of proposals.

TCUP Research Experiences for Undergraduates (TREU) are for those institutions that wish to initiate or expand

opportunities for undergraduate students to engage in research projects.

The general designation Initiation projects replaces the designations Phase I and Phase II, as described in [NSF 04-602](#).

A new track for *Innovation through Institutional Integration* (I<sup>3</sup>) has been added. I<sup>3</sup> challenges institutions to think strategically about the creative integration of NSF-funded awards and is itself an integrative, cross-cutting effort within the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR). In Fiscal Year 2008, proposals are being solicited in six EHR programs that advance I<sup>3</sup> goals: CREST, ITEST, MSP, Noyce, RDE, and TCUP. All proposals submitted to I<sup>3</sup> through these programs have a common due date and will be reviewed in competition with one another. Awards will be made to institutions of higher education (including two- and four-year colleges). Given the focus on institutional integration, an institution may submit only one proposal to the I<sup>3</sup> competition in only one program.

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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### General Information

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#### Program Title:

Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP)

#### Synopsis of Program:

This program provides awards to enhance the quality of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) instructional and outreach programs at Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaskan Native-serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions. Support is available for the implementation of comprehensive institutional approaches to strengthen STEM teaching and learning in ways that improve access to, retention within, and graduation from STEM programs. Through this program, assistance is provided to eligible institutions in their efforts to bridge the digital divide and prepare students for careers in information technology, science, mathematics and engineering fields. Proposed activities should be the result of a careful analysis of institutional needs, address institutional and NSF goals, and have the potential to result in significant and sustainable improvements in STEM program offerings. Typical project implementation strategies include curriculum enhancement, faculty professional development, undergraduate research and community service, academic enrichment, infusion of technology to enhance STEM instruction, collaborations, and other activities that meet institutional and community needs.

*Innovation through Institutional Integration* (I<sup>3</sup>) projects enable institutions to think and act strategically about the creative integration of NSF-funded awards, with particular emphasis on awards managed through programs in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR), but not limited to those awards. For Fiscal Year 2008, proposals are being solicited in six EHR programs that advance I<sup>3</sup> goals: CREST, ITEST, MSP, Noyce, RDE, and TCUP.

#### Cognizant Program Officer(s):

- Lura Chase, Program Director, telephone: (703) 292-8682, email: [lchase@nsf.gov](mailto:lchase@nsf.gov)
- Michael Fredenberg, Program Director, telephone: (703) 292-8682, email: [mfredenb@nsf.gov](mailto:mfredenb@nsf.gov)

#### Applicable Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s):

- 47.076 --- Education and Human Resources

### Award Information

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**Anticipated Type of Award:** Other Grant    Grants and Cooperative Agreements

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 4 to 14 - Approximately 4 TCUP implementation awards resulting from Full Proposals will be awarded as cooperative agreements or continuing grants annually. For the Innovation through Institutional Integration competition, up to 10 continuing awards in this cross-divisional effort will be made, pending availability of funds.

**Anticipated Funding Amount:** \$2,000,000 - Approximately \$2,000,000 for TCUP projects in FY 2009, pending availability of funds. In future years, funding for TCUP projects is expected to be at least level with FY 2009, pending availability of funds. \$10,000,000 over 5 years for Innovation through Institutional Integration projects which are being requested across multiple EHR programs, pending availability of funds.

## Eligibility Information

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### Organization Limit:

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Organizations eligible to submit TCUP proposals are Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native-serving institutions and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions as defined in Section IV of this solicitation.

Only those institutions that have received an Initiation or Phase I award are eligible to propose under STEM Teachers of Excellence Education Projects (STEEP).

Eligibility for Innovation through Institutional Integration (I<sup>3</sup>) is limited to institutions of higher education (including two- and four-year colleges) located and accredited in the US, acting on behalf of their faculty members.

### PI Limit:

The TCUP Principal Investigator is expected to be the chief academic officer of the institution, or other senior academic officer responsible for oversight and management of curriculum and instructional policies for the institution. Proposers are strongly encouraged to identify lead faculty to help implement the project and serve as co-Principal Investigators.

The PI for an Innovation through Institutional Integration (I<sup>3</sup>) proposal must be the university provost or equivalent, unless the proposal is exclusively for I<sup>3</sup> STEM educational or related research.

### Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:

Eligible institutions may receive consecutive but not concurrent Initiation awards. Eligible institutions may receive STEEP, Collaborative Partnership, and TCUP Research Experiences for Undergraduates (TREU) funding concurrently with Initiation awards. Only those institutions that have received an Initiation or Phase I award are eligible to propose under STEEP.

For Fiscal Year 2008, proposals are being solicited in six EHR programs that advance I<sup>3</sup> goals: CREST, ITEST, MSP, Noyce, RDE, and TCUP. Given the focus on institutional integration, an institution may submit only one proposal to the I<sup>3</sup> competition in only one program.

### Limit on Number of Proposals per PI:

None Specified

## Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

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### A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- **Letters of Intent:** Not Applicable
- **Preliminary Proposal Submission:** Not Applicable
- **Full Proposals:**
  - Full Proposals submitted via FastLane: NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide, Part I: Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) Guidelines apply. The complete text of the GPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: [http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=gpg](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg).

- Full Proposals submitted via Grants.gov: NSF Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov Guidelines apply (Note: The NSF Grants.gov Application Guide is available on the Grants.gov website and on the NSF website at: <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/docs/grantsgovguide.pdf>)

## B. Budgetary Information

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Cost Sharing is not required under this solicitation.
- **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:** Not Applicable
- **Other Budgetary Limitations:** Other budgetary limitations apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

## C. Due Dates

- **Full Proposal Deadline(s)** (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

April 10, 2008

Innovation through Institutional Integration

October 20, 2008

October 20, Annually Thereafter

TCUP Implementation Projects

- **Full Proposal Deadline(s)** (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

Proposals Accepted Anytime

TCUP Planning Projects

## Proposal Review Information Criteria

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**Merit Review Criteria:** National Science Board approved criteria. Additional merit review considerations apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

## Award Administration Information

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**Award Conditions:** Standard NSF award conditions apply

**Reporting Requirements:** Standard NSF reporting requirements apply

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## I. INTRODUCTION

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Programs managed by the Division of Human Resource Development (HRD), within the Directorate for Education and Human Resources, seek to increase the participation and advancement of underrepresented groups and institutions at every level of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and research. In so doing, these programs contribute to attainment of an outcome goal of the NSF Strategic Plan FY 2003-2008: A diverse, competitive and globally-engaged workforce of scientists, engineers, technologists and well-prepared citizens.

The programs of the ethnic diversity continuum provide coordinated and integrated approaches to developing and leveraging individual talents and institutional infrastructures in order to increase substantially the number of underrepresented ethnic minorities well prepared for participation and leadership in the STEM workforce. Managed synergistically, these programs enable seamless student transitions from undergraduate study at the associate and baccalaureate levels to attainment of doctoral degrees, as well as strengthen the research vigor and competitiveness of graduate students and faculty at participating institutions.

Although programs in the Division of Human Resource Development focus primarily on underrepresented communities, all NSF programs encourage proposals that incorporate this goal. See the NSF Guide to Programs for descriptions of all NSF funding opportunities.

***Innovation through Institutional Integration (I<sup>3</sup>)*** projects enable institutions to think and act strategically about the creative integration of NSF-funded awards, with particular emphasis on awards managed through programs in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR), but not limited to those awards. For Fiscal Year 2008, proposals are being solicited in six EHR programs that advance I<sup>3</sup> goals: CREST, ITEST, MSP, Noyce, RDE, and TCUP.

## II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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The Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP) promotes sustainable improvement of undergraduate science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) instructional and outreach programs, with an emphasis on the expansion of course and degree offerings, undergraduate research opportunities, and the use of information technologies at Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaskan Native-serving institutions and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions. Support is available for the implementation of comprehensive institutional approaches to strengthen STEM teaching and learning in ways that improve access to, retention within, and graduation from STEM disciplines. Through this program, assistance is provided to eligible institutions in their efforts to bridge the digital divide and prepare students for careers in information technology, science, mathematics and engineering fields. The National Science Foundation allows flexibility in the design of efforts to improve undergraduate STEM education. Proposed activities should be the result of a careful analysis of institutional needs, address institutional and NSF goals, and have the potential to result in significant and sustainable improvement of STEM programs.

Funding through TCUP is available as Planning or Implementation projects, which are described below. Implementation

projects can be of several types, such as Initiation, Collaborative Partnerships, or STEM Teachers of Excellence Education Projects. Typical project implementation strategies (described in greater detail below) include course, degree, and curriculum development, reform and improvement; faculty professional development; the integration of active learning pedagogies into the STEM curriculum; community outreach and engagement; student support, academic enrichment activities and internships; student recruitment, retention and placement; infusion of technology to enhance STEM instruction; collaborations with four-year institutions, business and industry; strengthening the abilities of technical support personnel; and other activities that meet institutional and community needs. While the primary focus of TCUP is at the associate and baccalaureate degree levels, projects are encouraged to consider components that promote precollege interest in STEM areas, and that address student advancement through the critical transition points during the STEM academic and career pathways: the transition between high school and college; between 2- and 4-year colleges; between undergraduate and graduate studies; and from college to the workplace. Supplemental funding may be available for special initiatives, such as TCUP Research Experiences for Undergraduates.

**INITIATION PROJECTS:** TCUP will accept proposals from eligible institutions that have completed the necessary planning activities (with or without NSF support) to develop an appropriate strategy for STEM instructional improvement. Initiation projects will typically be awarded for up to three years, not to exceed \$1,500,000, and may be renewable for an additional two years, based on accomplishment; total funding is not expected to exceed \$2,500,000. Initiation projects should actively engage those faculty members responsible for the successful completion of the proposed work.

**COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS:** Recognizing that colleges and universities serving indigenous students have historical, philosophical, and thematic links, TCUP will accept proposals for collaborative projects between two or more TCUP-eligible institutions. Projects must build upon the current TCUP effort or must include strategies for strengthening the STEM initiatives in those institutions that do not have a TCUP award. These projects should not be viewed as isolated efforts but should include shared efforts on behalf of curriculum development, faculty development opportunities, and student support and recruitment. Collaborative Partnerships will typically be for up to three years, not to exceed \$1,500,000.

**STEM Teachers of Excellence Education Projects (STEEP):** In recognition of the need for excellent precollege and community college science, math, technology and engineering teachers and faculty, TCUP will support the development of baccalaureate degree programs in elementary or secondary education. Elementary education projects must have a strong emphasis on standards-based, hands-on, relevant science and math; secondary education projects must contain the equivalent of a minor in one or more of the NSF STEM disciplines or an integrated science curriculum. Eligible activities include faculty support, educational hardware and software, curriculum materials support, stipends for student fellowships, and enhancements of library holdings necessary to support the degree programs. Only those institutions that have received an Initiation or Phase I award are eligible to propose under STEEP. STEEP projects will typically be for up to three years, not to exceed \$1,500,000.

**PLANNING PROJECTS:** TCUP-eligible institutions that have not received planning funding may submit a proposal to help the institution conduct an assessment of its STEM infrastructure and develop an institutional plan to enhance its STEM program. TCUP planning grants typically provide up to \$50,000 for up to one year. Interested individuals are strongly encouraged to discuss this option with a TCUP program director.

The following examples illustrate the possible scope of TCUP activities, as well as some aspects of project design to consider:

**CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT:** Course and curriculum development or enhancement are critical to achieve institution-wide improvements in undergraduate STEM education. Proposers may include plans to strengthen and update the STEM curricula through the development, adaptation and implementation of instructional materials, experiences and practices. Supportable activities include, but are not limited to:

- development and introduction of STEM program or degree offerings to be offered locally or shared between partner institutions;
- restructuring the STEM curricula, courses and laboratories through the incorporation of advances in science and engineering knowledge, research-based teaching and learning techniques and practices, and through the integration of technology into the curricula;
- revision of STEM gate-keeping and bottleneck courses based on appropriate content and performance standards;
- alignment of curriculum to promote student transfer between partner institutions to work toward advanced degree completion; and
- integration of student research, community service and other active learning pedagogies into the curriculum.

**FACULTY DEVELOPMENT and INTERACTIONS:** A well-trained faculty with continuous learning opportunities remains an integral part of a strong institutional infrastructure and positively impacts the quality of undergraduate education. Faculty development activities suitable for TCUP support include, but are not limited to, the following:

- sabbaticals to enhance research competencies and knowledge of recent technological developments;
- visitation or exchange programs to promote opportunities and enhance collaborative research and education projects between partner institutions;
- professional development workshops on innovative teaching practices and assessment, including distance education

- methodologies;
- professional development workshops on laboratory equipment, techniques, safety, and quality control;
- visiting faculty, including industry practitioners;
- special seminars to enhance disciplinary knowledge;
- faculty reassigned time or released time to participate in appropriate STEM curricular reform and academic enhancement activities;
- opportunities to participate in research and community service in conjunction with student experiences; and
- faculty reassigned time or released time to mentor students.

**UNDERGRADUATE TRAINING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCES:** Stipends may be provided to students (U.S. citizens and permanent residents, only) at eligible institutions who are engaged in STEM related research or training activities or appropriate community service. Research experiences may be on campus with local investigators or at off-campus sites (e. g., industrial, academic, and governmental research laboratories). Community service may be provided off-campus. Activities suitable for TCUP support include, but are not limited to, the following:

- development of appropriate partnerships with other academic institutions, industrial laboratories, national laboratories, or NSF-supported research centers to ensure quality student training and research experiences that complement academic studies;
- meaningful internships or cooperative education opportunities related to students' skill development at appropriate off-campus sites;
- student internships at local schools to provide technical training or support; and
- students serving as resources to help the local community meet technology-related goals and objectives based on community needs.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE:** Implementation projects should establish an external advisory committee, normally chaired by the college or university President or other ranking institutional representative not designated as key personnel. This committee will help guide the implementation and assessment of project activities. The size of the committee is left to the discretion of the proposers. However, there should be adequate representation from partner institutions, industry and the local community. Prospective candidates for the committee should be identified in the Project Description. The project leadership may not serve on the advisory committee.

**PROJECT STAFF:** Project staffing requirements will depend on the design, scope and the discipline focus. General NSF provisions allow salaries of project staff to be requested as direct costs. However, proposals should include plans to sustain project activities after NSF funding has ended, particularly including specific commitments of the institution to sustain salaries of any faculty added through TCUP funding. In addition to the Principal Investigator, who is normally the Chief Academic Officer of the institution, typical project organization consists of a Project Director and a Steering Committee with faculty from the relevant disciplines or programs.

**PROJECT LENGTH:** Initiation projects will be funded up to five years and should be designed to produce significant and sustainable improvements in undergraduate STEM education. Information bearing on project implementation, faculty participation and student participation and performance will be required on an annual basis. Proposals must include a detailed management plan and activity timeline covering the entire duration of the project, describing major activities, milestones and the responsibilities of each participating academic program or partner organization. Collaborative Partnerships and STEEPs will be funded up to three years, and should include the same information.

**PROJECT SIZE:** Ideally, Implementation projects should seek to address an identified institutional STEM priority area. Proposers should clearly state the numbers of faculty and students that will benefit from project activities. The scope of the project should be clearly defined within the context of the institution.

TCUP will also receive proposals for funding special activities, such as the TCUP Research Experiences for Undergraduates (TREU), and Innovation through Institutional Integration (I<sup>3</sup>).

**TCUP Research Experiences for Undergraduates (TREU):** The National Science Foundation recognizes the value of research experience to attracting students into STEM fields of study, to retaining and supporting their interest in those fields, and to training future scientists, engineers, and mathematicians. The Foundation understands that research experiences should be available to all STEM students, regardless of the locale in which they study. The TREU supplements are designed to enable the development of research projects for students and faculty in a set of institutions of higher education that have not traditionally offered significant undergraduate research opportunities. Lead Faculty who serve as research mentors may be but are not required to be the Principal Investigators of the relevant TCUP award. The review and subsequent management of the undergraduate research activity will be co-managed by TCUP and cognizant research program directors.

Institutions of higher education that have current awards from the Tribal Colleges and Universities Program are eligible to submit requests for TREU supplements. Approximately \$100,000 is available to support supplements to existing awards. It is anticipated that 10 awards will be made annually and that each award will be up to \$10,000.

A request for supplemental funding should be prepared and submitted as a supplement to an existing TCUP award through

the NSF FastLane System at <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov>. Principal Investigators should use the Supplemental Funding Request link under Award and Reporting Functions. The project description or “Justification for Supplement” section of the supplemental request is limited to eight pages. It should address the following items:

- (a) Overview. A brief description of the objectives of the proposed TREU project, targeted student participants, intellectual focus, organizational structure, timetable, and participating organization’s commitment to the TREU activity.
- (b) Nature of Student Activities. The approach to undergraduate training being taken, with detailed descriptions of examples of research projects that students will pursue.
- (c) The Research Environment. The experience and credentials of the Lead Faculty who will serve as mentor(s); and the infrastructure of the institution to support the proposed investigations, including facilities, equipment, and other resources available.
- (d) Student Recruitment and Selection. A detailed description of the recruitment plan and the process by which students will be selected to participate in the research projects.
- (e) Project Evaluation and Reporting. A description of the measures and methods by which the project’s impact will be assessed, particularly the degree to which students have expanded their understanding of and perspectives on STEM studies and research. Reporting for Supplement projects should be submitted through FastLane with a copy sent directly to the cognizant program directors.
- (f) Biographical Sketches. A resume or curriculum vitae of the Lead Faculty, in accordance with the Grant Proposal Guide specifications for format and length, including relevant research or publications involving undergraduate students.

### **INNOVATION THROUGH INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRATION (I<sup>3</sup>)**

Creativity, connectivity, integration, and synergy are keys to innovation and to developing human and institutional capacity to full potential. In both research and education, it is the forging of new links between ideas or methodologies that were previously disparate that frequently paves the way for innovation. When institutions optimize the benefits to be derived from the creative integration of intellectual perspectives or related domains of work, they create important opportunities for making progress on some of the most important scientific, technological, and educational challenges of our time. On individual campuses across the nation, for example, significant synergistic potential can be ignited when scholars and educators in related disciplines to work together. Similarly, NSF awardees can harness new synergies by working together with other NSF-funded projects on their own campus or in close geographic proximity.

*Innovation through Institutional Integration* challenges institutions to think strategically about the creative integration of NSF-funded awards towards a whole that exceeds the sum of its parts. Although there is particular emphasis in I<sup>3</sup> on awards managed by programs in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR), institutional integration is not limited only to EHR awards but can include other NSF awards with a STEM educational focus. Two or more institutions in geographic proximity might, for example, partner to bridge existing NSF-funded awards on their campuses (e.g., RDE, IGERT, LSAMP, ATE, CREST, REU) to broaden participation in STEM fields and enhance undergraduate research opportunities. Additional connections might be made internationally with faculty or students outside the United States who would add their considerable intellectual and cultural perspectives. As another example, an institution might implement new policies, procedures, or mechanisms that encourage and value synergistic efforts among existing NSF-funded awards (e.g., GK-12, MSP, Noyce, REESE, DRK-12) and with other institutional units to better understand and enhance seamlessness across critical educational junctures, perhaps infusing innovative approaches to cyber-learning.

This effort has the following interrelated goals:

- Increase synergy and collaboration across NSF-funded projects and within/between institutions, towards an educational environment where artificial boundaries are significantly reduced;
- Expand and deepen the footprints of NSF-funded projects and enhance their sustainability;
- Promote innovative programming, policies, and practices to encourage the integration of STEM research and education;
- Provide additional avenues to broaden participation by those underserved in STEM research and education, especially underrepresented minorities, women, and persons of disabilities; attend to seamless transitions across critical educational junctures; and/or provide more effectively for a globally engaged workforce.



- Encourage STEM educational or related research in domains that hold promise for promoting intra- or inter-institutional integration and broader impacts.

Excellence or its potential exists everywhere, throughout the nation and in all types and sizes of institutions of higher education. Proposals that facilitate either (a) inter-institutional or (b) intra-institutional efforts are encouraged. Proposals may be submitted by (a) a single institution to address intra-institutional goals only or (b) an institution acting on behalf of an institutional partnership to address inter-institutional goals.

**Proposals are expected to incorporate a depth and quality of creative, coherent, and strategic actions that extend beyond commonplace approaches to normal institutional operations.** Proposals may also be submitted for research or data collection on institutional integration, commensurate with the goals above.

*Innovation through Institutional Integration* (I<sup>3</sup>) is a cross-divisional effort in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR). For Fiscal Year 2008, proposals are being solicited in six EHR programs that advance I<sup>3</sup> goals: CREST, ITEST, MSP, Noyce, RDE, and TCUP. All proposals submitted to I<sup>3</sup> through these programs have a common due date and will be reviewed in competition with one another.

### III. AWARD INFORMATION

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Estimated program budget, number of awards, and average award size/duration are subject to the availability of funds.

The estimated number of TCUP awards is 4 awards.

TCUP Initiation awards will be up to \$500,000 per year for up to three years, and may be renewable for an additional two years, based on accomplishment, total funding not to exceed \$2,500,000. Collaborative Partnerships, and STEEP awards will be up to \$500,000 per year for up to three years. Initiation, Collaborative Partnerships, and STEEP awards will be managed as cooperative agreements or continuing grants.

Funds should be budgeted for the principal investigator and project director of an implementation award to attend a two-day grantee meeting in the Washington, DC area each award year; and a TCUP Leaders' Forum in the midwest or western United States each award year. Awards should budget funds for the project leadership to participate in two reverse site visits to NSF during the award period.

**Innovation Through Institutional Integration Projects** Awards for Innovation through Institutional Integration projects will be made for durations of up to five years, with years four and five dependent on performance, in amounts of up to \$200,000 per year, for a total of up to \$1 million over 5 years. Innovation through Institutional Integration awards will be made as continuing grants.

### IV. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

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#### Organization Limit:

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Organizations eligible to submit TCUP proposals are Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native-serving institutions and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions as defined in Section IV of this solicitation.

Only those institutions that have received an Initiation or Phase I award are eligible to propose under STEM Teachers of Excellence Education Projects (STEEP).

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#### **Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:**

Eligible institutions may receive consecutive but not concurrent Initiation awards. Eligible institutions may receive STEEP, Collaborative Partnership, and TCUP Research Experiences for Undergraduates (TREU) funding concurrently with Initiation awards. Only those institutions that have received an Initiation or Phase I award are eligible to propose under STEEP.

For Fiscal Year 2008, proposals are being solicited in six EHR programs that advance I<sup>3</sup> goals: CREST, ITEST, MSP, Noyce, RDE, and TCUP. Given the focus on institutional integration, an institution may submit only one proposal to the I<sup>3</sup> competition in only one program.

#### **Limit on Number of Proposals per PI:**

None Specified

#### **Additional Eligibility Info:**

Organizations eligible to submit TCUP proposals are Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaskan Native-serving institutions and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions. Multiple campuses of one university system are normally encouraged to consider collaborative partnership submissions. Executive Order 13021 defines Tribal Colleges and Universities ("tribal colleges") as those institutions cited in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), and other institution that qualifies for funding under the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1978, (25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), and Navajo Community College, authorized in the Navajo Community College Assistance Act of 1978, Public Law 95-471, Title II (25 U.S.C. 640a note). The term "Alaska Native-serving institution" means an institution of higher education that is an eligible institution under section 1058(b) of the Higher Education Act; and at the time of submission, has an enrollment of undergraduate students that is at least 20 percent Alaskan Native students. The term "Native Hawaiian-serving institution" means an institution of higher education that is an eligible institution under section 1058(b) of the Higher Education Act; and at the time of submission, has an enrollment of undergraduate students that is at least 10 percent Native Hawaiian students.

## **V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

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### **A. Proposal Preparation Instructions**

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**Full Proposal Preparation Instructions:** Proposers may opt to submit proposals in response to this Program Solicitation via Grants.gov or via the NSF FastLane system.

- Full proposals submitted via FastLane: Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the general guidelines contained in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide (GPG). The complete text of the GPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: [http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=gpg](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg). Paper copies of the GPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from [pubs@nsf.gov](mailto:pubs@nsf.gov). Proposers are reminded to identify this program solicitation number in the program solicitation block on the NSF Cover Sheet For Proposal to the National Science Foundation. Compliance with this requirement is critical to determining the relevant proposal processing guidelines. Failure to submit this information may delay processing.
- Full proposals submitted via Grants.gov: Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation via Grants.gov should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov. The complete text of the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide is available on the Grants.gov website and on the NSF website at: (<http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/>

[policy/docs/grantsgovguide.pdf](#)). To obtain copies of the Application Guide and Application Forms Package, click on the Apply tab on the Grants.gov site, then click on the Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Application Instructions link and enter the funding opportunity number, (the program solicitation number without the NSF prefix) and press the Download Package button. Paper copies of the Grants.gov Application Guide also may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from [pubs@nsf.gov](mailto:pubs@nsf.gov).

In determining which method to utilize in the electronic preparation and submission of the proposal, please note the following:

**Collaborative Proposals.** All collaborative proposals submitted as separate submissions from multiple organizations must be submitted via the NSF FastLane system. Chapter II, Section D.3 of the Grant Proposal Guide provides additional information on collaborative proposals.

### **For TCUP IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS**

Proposals for TCUP Implementation Projects should include the following information that supplements the GPG and the Grants.gov Application Guide, and, unless otherwise noted, applies to both types of submissions:

1. **INFORMATION ABOUT PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS:** NSF requests information on the gender, race, ethnicity and disability status of individuals named as PIs/co-PIs on proposals and awards. Except for the required information about current or previous Federal research support and the names(s) of the PI/co-PI, submission of the information is voluntary, and individuals who do not wish to provide the personal information should check the box provided for that purpose. Refer to the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) for guidelines. For proposals submitted via Grants.gov, this information is submitted on the R&R Personal Data Form. Refer to the Grants.gov Application Guide for additional instructions.
2. **COVER SHEET:** In FastLane, under "NSF Unit Consideration," select "Tribal Colleges and Universities Program" as the program to consider the proposal. Select "DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT" as the division to consider the proposal. The title of the proposal should reflect the type of project being proposed (e.g., Implementation; STEEP, or Collaborative Partnership).
3. **PROJECT SUMMARY:** Not more than one page in length, the summary should consist of a self-contained description of the activities that would be implemented if the proposal were funded.
4. **TABLE OF CONTENTS:** A Table of Contents is automatically generated for the proposal.
5. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** This section is the main body of the proposal and may not exceed 15 pages. The description of the project should:
  - (a) clearly state project goals, objectives, and a timeline for proposed activities with an indication of their anticipated impact;
  - (b) provide a clear picture of the current status of the institution's STEM infrastructure and an institutional plan to enhance the STEM program by indicating the anticipated value added by the NSF-supported efforts;
  - (c) build on existing research about underrepresented minority participation in the STEM educational continuum;
  - (d) describe the expected impact of the project across STEM offerings at the institution (additionally, proposals for subsequent Implementation awards or for STEEPs should carefully articulate the Results from Prior Support);
  - (e) describe the management structure that will be used to communicate and facilitate project goals throughout the institution;
  - (f) provide a list of external advisory committee members;
  - (g) provide evidence of the commitment of the proposing institution to the improvement of undergraduate STEM education including plans and resource alignment strategies to continue elements of the project after NSF funding ends; and
  - (h) include an evaluation and assessment plan within the Project Description so that project

development and implementation can be monitored at all stages. One of the key objectives of TCUP is to improve the quality of undergraduate STEM education through the development, adaptation and implementation of effective educational techniques and practices to enhance STEM instruction. Accordingly, proposed evaluation and assessment plans should include indicators of progress that address the extent to which:

- i. educational techniques and practices, shown to be effective elsewhere, are adapted or modified for use at the awardee institution;
- ii. a plan has been developed to assess the effectiveness of the educational techniques or practices implemented;
- iii. faculty at the awardee institution have been prepared to use the modified educational techniques or practices;
- iv. modified techniques or practices have been incorporated into the curriculum;
- v. innovative courses or program components are developed;
- vi. the effectiveness of implemented educational techniques, practices, courses or components is assessed;
- vii. the equipment has been successfully incorporated into the curriculum (for those projects that acquire equipment);
- viii. project activities affect student learning and student access to quality STEM education as defined by measurable quantitative student-based outcomes such as:
  - number of STEM majors involved in active learning activities, research activities, or community service;
  - number of STEM majors who have enrolled in and successfully completed newly developed or revised courses or programs;
  - rates of successful completion of STEM gate-keeper courses;
  - student retention in STEM disciplines;
  - number of STEM graduates with grade point averages of 3.0 or higher;
  - number of STEM students matriculating into 4-year colleges or graduate programs; and
  - number of graduates that enter the STEM workforce.

For information about evaluation methodology, see User-Friendly Handbook for Mixed Method Evaluations ([NSF 97-153](#)).

Appendices are not accepted and will not be reviewed.

**Prospective proposers are encouraged to confer with NSF TCUP staff prior to proposal submission.**

### **For INNOVATION THROUGH INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRATION I<sup>3</sup> PROJECTS**

The proposal should articulate the project's vision, goals, and anticipated outcomes and describe how the project will achieve them. It is expected that the plan of work will impact participating NSF awards, as well as other relevant parts of the institution (s). The proposal should include a management/governance plan that describes who is responsible for what, a timeline, and an evaluation plan. All proposals must clearly demonstrate that the submitting team has the capability to manage the project, organize the work, and meet deadlines. The proposed evaluation plan should address the effectiveness of the strategies employed for institutional integration, including any institutional policies, practices, or mechanisms developed and implemented under this effort; and, as appropriate, provide for the evaluation of any products produced under this effort, as well as for the collection and analyses of data that track increases in STEM student recruitment and retention (against baseline data) and other measures of student progress (against comparable baseline data). In addition to project-level evaluation, awardees will be required to participate in an NSF data collection system (to be developed) that will track outcomes and impacts over time, as well as in an independent, multi-method program-level evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the I<sup>3</sup> investment.

Proposals for I<sup>3</sup> research should discuss the current state of knowledge relevant to the project. This brief literature review should clearly inform the proposed research. The project description should identify the methods the project will use and explain why those methods are appropriate to the questions that the proposal addresses. Methodologies must be matched with strategic research questions, and the logic among research question, method, analysis, inference, and evidence should

be well articulated.

## B. Budgetary Information

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**Cost Sharing:** Cost sharing is not required under this solicitation.

**Other Budgetary Limitations:**

Funds should be budgeted for the principal investigator and project director of an implementation award to attend a two-day grantee meeting in the Washington, DC area each award year. Implementation awards should budget funds for the project leadership to participate in two reverse site visits to NSF during the award period.

## C. Due Dates

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• **Full Proposal Deadline(s)** (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

April 10, 2008

Innovation through Institutional Integration

October 20, 2008

October 20, Annually Thereafter

TCUP Implementation Projects

• **Full Proposal Deadline(s)** (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

Proposals Accepted Anytime

TCUP Planning Projects

## D. FastLane/Grants.gov Requirements

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• **For Proposals Submitted Via FastLane:**

Detailed technical instructions regarding the technical aspects of preparation and submission via FastLane are available at: <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm>. For FastLane user support, call the FastLane Help Desk at 1-800-673-6188 or e-mail [fastlane@nsf.gov](mailto:fastlane@nsf.gov). The FastLane Help Desk answers general technical questions related to the use of the FastLane system. Specific questions related to this program solicitation should be referred to the NSF program staff contact(s) listed in Section VIII of this funding opportunity.

**Submission of Electronically Signed Cover Sheets.** The Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) must electronically sign the proposal Cover Sheet to submit the required proposal certifications (see Chapter II, Section C of the Grant Proposal Guide for a listing of the certifications). The AOR must provide the required electronic certifications within five working days following the electronic submission of the proposal. Further instructions regarding this process are available on the FastLane Website at: <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/fastlane.jsp>.

• **For Proposals Submitted Via Grants.gov:**

Before using Grants.gov for the first time, each organization must register to create an institutional profile. Once registered, the applicant's organization can then apply for any federal grant on the Grants.gov website. The Grants.gov's Grant Community User Guide is a comprehensive reference document that provides technical information about Grants.gov. Proposers can download the User Guide as a Microsoft Word document or as a PDF document. The Grants.gov User Guide is available at: <http://www.grants.gov/Customersupport>. In addition, the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide provides additional technical guidance regarding preparation of proposals via Grants.gov. For Grants.gov user support, contact the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 or by email: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). The Grants.gov Contact Center answers general technical questions related to the use of Grants.gov. Specific questions related to this program solicitation should be referred to the NSF program staff contact(s) listed in Section VIII of this solicitation.

**Submitting the Proposal:** Once all documents have been completed, the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) must submit the application to Grants.gov and verify the desired funding opportunity and agency to which the application is submitted. The AOR must then sign and submit the application to Grants.gov. The completed application will be transferred to the NSF FastLane system for further processing.

## VI. NSF PROPOSAL PROCESSING AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

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Proposals received by NSF are assigned to the appropriate NSF program and, if they meet NSF proposal preparation requirements, for review. All proposals are carefully reviewed by a scientist, engineer, or educator serving as an NSF Program Officer, and usually by three to ten other persons outside NSF who are experts in the particular fields represented by the proposal. These reviewers are selected by Program Officers charged with the oversight of the review process. Proposers are invited to suggest names of persons they believe are especially well qualified to review the proposal and/or persons they would prefer not review the proposal. These suggestions may serve as one source in the reviewer selection process at the Program Officer's discretion. Submission of such names, however, is optional. Care is taken to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts with the proposer.

### A. NSF Merit Review Criteria

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All NSF proposals are evaluated through use of the two National Science Board (NSB)-approved merit review criteria: intellectual merit and the broader impacts of the proposed effort. In some instances, NSF will employ additional criteria as required to highlight the specific objectives of certain programs and activities.

The two NSB-approved merit review criteria are listed below. The criteria include considerations that help define them. These considerations are suggestions and not all will apply to any given proposal. While proposers must address both merit review criteria, reviewers will be asked to address only those considerations that are relevant to the proposal being considered and for which the reviewer is qualified to make judgements.

#### **What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?**

How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of the prior work.) To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?

#### **What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?**

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

Examples illustrating activities likely to demonstrate broader impacts are available electronically on the NSF website at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/gpg/broaderimpacts.pdf>.

NSF staff will give careful consideration to the following in making funding decisions:

#### ***Integration of Research and Education***

One of the principal strategies in support of NSF's goals is to foster integration of research and education through the programs, projects, and activities it supports at academic and research institutions. These institutions provide abundant opportunities where individuals may concurrently assume responsibilities as researchers, educators, and students and where all can engage in joint efforts that infuse education with the excitement of discovery and enrich research through the diversity of learning perspectives.

#### ***Integrating Diversity into NSF Programs, Projects, and Activities***

Broadening opportunities and enabling the participation of all citizens -- women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities -- is essential to the health and vitality of science and engineering. NSF is committed to this principle of diversity and deems it central to the programs, projects, and activities it considers and supports.

#### **Additional Review Criteria:**



In addition to the two NSF criteria for Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts, special review criteria for I<sup>3</sup> are:

- The extent to which the proposed project addresses the interrelated goals for institutional integration;
- The degree of innovation in the proposed project as evidenced by a depth and quality of creative, coherent, and strategic actions that extend beyond commonplace approaches to normal institutional operations;
- The extent to which the proposed project addresses programming, policies, and practices commensurate with the sustained institutional change needed to seed and nurture appropriate, synergistic relationships among discrete NSF awards.

## **B. Review and Selection Process**

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Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation will be reviewed by Ad hoc Review and/or Panel Review.

Reviewers will be asked to formulate a recommendation to either support or decline each proposal. The Program Officer assigned to manage the proposal's review will consider the advice of reviewers and will formulate a recommendation.

After scientific, technical and programmatic review and consideration of appropriate factors, the NSF Program Officer recommends to the cognizant Division Director whether the proposal should be declined or recommended for award. NSF is striving to be able to tell applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months. The time interval begins on the date of receipt. The interval ends when the Division Director accepts the Program Officer's recommendation.

A summary rating and accompanying narrative will be completed and submitted by each reviewer. In all cases, reviews are treated as confidential documents. Verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the names of the reviewers, are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Officer. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

In all cases, after programmatic approval has been obtained, the proposals recommended for funding will be forwarded to the Division of Grants and Agreements for review of business, financial, and policy implications and the processing and issuance of a grant or other agreement. Proposers are cautioned that only a Grants and Agreements Officer may make commitments, obligations or awards on behalf of NSF or authorize the expenditure of funds. No commitment on the part of NSF should be inferred from technical or budgetary discussions with a NSF Program Officer. A Principal Investigator or organization that makes financial or personnel commitments in the absence of a grant or cooperative agreement signed by the NSF Grants and Agreements Officer does so at their own risk.

## **VII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

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### **A. Notification of the Award**

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Notification of the award is made to *the submitting organization* by a Grants Officer in the Division of Grants and Agreements. Organizations whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible by the cognizant NSF Program administering the program. Verbatim copies of reviews, not including the identity of the reviewer, will be provided automatically to the Principal Investigator. (See Section VI.B. for additional information on the review process.)

### **B. Award Conditions**

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An NSF award consists of: (1) the award letter, which includes any special provisions applicable to the award and any numbered amendments thereto; (2) the budget, which indicates the amounts, by categories of expense, on which NSF has based its support (or otherwise communicates any specific approvals or disapprovals of proposed expenditures); (3) the proposal referenced in the award letter; (4) the applicable award conditions, such as Grant General Conditions (GC-1); \* or Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Terms and Conditions \* and (5) any announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award letter. Cooperative agreements also are administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Financial and Administrative Terms and Conditions (CA-FATC) and the applicable Programmatic Terms and Conditions. NSF awards are electronically signed by an NSF Grants and Agreements Officer and transmitted electronically to the organization via e-mail.

\*These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's Website at [http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/general\\_conditions.jsp?org=NSF](http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/general_conditions.jsp?org=NSF). Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from [pubs@nsf.gov](mailto:pubs@nsf.gov).

More comprehensive information on NSF Award Conditions and other important information on the administration of NSF awards is contained in the *NSF Award & Administration Guide (AAG)* Chapter II, available electronically on the NSF Website at [http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=aag](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=aag).

## C. Reporting Requirements

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For all multi-year grants (including both standard and continuing grants), the Principal Investigator must submit an annual project report to the cognizant Program Officer at least 90 days before the end of the current budget period. (Some programs or awards require more frequent project reports). Within 90 days after expiration of a grant, the PI also is required to submit a final project report.

Failure to provide the required annual or final project reports will delay NSF review and processing of any future funding increments as well as any pending proposals for that PI. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports in advance to assure availability of required data.

PIs are required to use NSF's electronic project-reporting system, available through FastLane, for preparation and submission of annual and final project reports. Such reports provide information on activities and findings, project participants (individual and organizational) publications; and, other specific products and contributions. PIs will not be required to re-enter information previously provided, either with a proposal or in earlier updates using the electronic system. Submission of the report via FastLane constitutes certification by the PI that the contents of the report are accurate and complete.

## VIII. AGENCY CONTACTS

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General inquiries regarding this program should be made to:

- Lura Chase, Program Director, telephone: (703) 292-8682, email: [lchase@nsf.gov](mailto:lchase@nsf.gov)
- Michael Fredenberg, Program Director, telephone: (703) 292-8682, email: [mfredenb@nsf.gov](mailto:mfredenb@nsf.gov)

For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:

- FastLane Help Desk, telephone: 1-800-673-6188; e-mail: [fastlane@nsf.gov](mailto:fastlane@nsf.gov).

For questions relating to Grants.gov contact:

- Grants.gov Contact Center: If the Authorized Organizational Representatives (AOR) has not received a confirmation message from Grants.gov within 48 hours of submission of application, please contact via telephone: 1-800-518-4726; e-mail: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).
- For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:
  - Margie Johnson, Program Specialist, Directorate for Education & Human Resources, Division of Human Resource Development, 815 N, telephone: (703) 292-7007, fax: (703) 292-9018, email: [mcjohnso@nsf.gov](mailto:mcjohnso@nsf.gov)
  - Victoria A. Smoot, Financial Operation Specialist, Directorate for Education & Human Resources, Division of Human Resource Development, 815 N, telephone: (703) 292-4677, fax: (703) 292-9018, email: [vsmoot@nsf.gov](mailto:vsmoot@nsf.gov)

For questions related to the use of Grants.gov contact:

- Grants.gov Contact Center: If the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) has not received a confirmation message from Grants.gov within 48 hours of submission of the application, please contact via telephone: 1-800-518-4726; e-mail: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

## IX. OTHER INFORMATION

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The NSF Website provides the most comprehensive source of information on NSF Directorates (including contact information), programs and funding opportunities. Use of this Website by potential proposers is strongly encouraged. In addition, MyNSF (formerly the Custom News Service) is an information-delivery system designed to keep potential proposers and other interested parties apprised of new NSF funding opportunities and publications, important changes in proposal and award policies and procedures, and upcoming NSF Regional Grants Conferences. Subscribers are informed through e-mail or the user's Web browser each time new publications are issued that match their identified interests. MyNSF also is available on NSF's Website at <http://www.nsf.gov/mynsf/>.

Grants.gov provides an additional electronic capability to search for Federal government-wide grant opportunities. NSF funding opportunities may be accessed via this new mechanism. Further information on Grants.gov may be obtained at <http://www.grants.gov>.

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent Federal agency created by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 USC 1861-75). The Act states the purpose of the NSF is "to promote the progress of science; [and] to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare by supporting research and education in all fields of science and engineering."

NSF funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. It does this through grants and cooperative agreements to more than 2,000 colleges, universities, K-12 school systems, businesses, informal science organizations and other research organizations throughout the US. The Foundation accounts for about one-fourth of Federal support to academic institutions for basic research.

NSF receives approximately 40,000 proposals each year for research, education and training projects, of which approximately 11,000 are funded. In addition, the Foundation receives several thousand applications for graduate and postdoctoral fellowships. The agency operates no laboratories itself but does support National Research Centers, user facilities, certain oceanographic vessels and Antarctic research stations. The Foundation also supports cooperative research between universities and industry, US participation in international scientific and engineering efforts, and educational activities at every academic level.

*Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities* provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities to work on NSF-supported projects. See Grant Proposal Guide Chapter II, Section D.2 for instructions regarding preparation of these types of proposals.

The National Science Foundation has Telephonic Device for the Deaf (TDD) and Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) capabilities that enable individuals with hearing impairments to communicate with the Foundation about NSF programs, employment or general information. TDD may be accessed at (703) 292-5090 and (800) 281-8749, FIRS at (800) 877-8339.

The National Science Foundation Information Center may be reached at (703) 292-5111.

The National Science Foundation promotes and advances scientific progress in the United States by competitively awarding grants and cooperative agreements for research and education in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

To get the latest information about program deadlines, to download copies of NSF publications, and to access abstracts of awards, visit the NSF Website at <http://www.nsf.gov>

- **Location:** 4201 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22230
- **For General Information** (NSF Information Center): (703) 292-5111
- **TDD (for the hearing-impaired):** (703) 292-5090
- **To Order Publications or Forms:**

Send an e-mail to: [pubs@nsf.gov](mailto:pubs@nsf.gov)

or telephone: (703) 292-7827

• **To Locate NSF Employees:** (703) 292-5111

## PRIVACY ACT AND PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENTS

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The information requested on proposal forms and project reports is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. The information on proposal forms will be used in connection with the selection of qualified proposals; and project reports submitted by awardees will be used for program evaluation and reporting within the Executive Branch and to Congress. The information requested may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the proposal review process; to proposer institutions/grantees to provide or obtain data regarding the proposal review process, award decisions, or the administration of awards; to government contractors, experts, volunteers and researchers and educators as necessary to complete assigned work; to other government agencies or other entities needing information regarding applicants or nominees as part of a joint application review process, or in order to coordinate programs or policy; and to another Federal agency, court, or party in a court or Federal administrative proceeding if the government is a party. Information about Principal Investigators may be added to the Reviewer file and used to select potential candidates to serve as peer reviewers or advisory committee members. See Systems of Records, NSF-50, "Principal Investigator/Proposal File and Associated Records," 69 Federal Register 26410 (May 12, 2004), and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records," 69 Federal Register 26410 (May 12, 2004). Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 3145-0058. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to:

Suzanne H. Plimpton  
Reports Clearance Officer  
Division of Administrative Services  
National Science Foundation  
Arlington, VA 22230

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