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# NNSA Announces University Centers of Excellence

**Stewardship Science Academic Alliances program strengthens national security**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), a semi-autonomous agency of the U.S. Department of Energy, announced today an additional $9 million in award selections for its Stewardship Science Academic Alliances program. The funding will be distributed over three years and support two new Centers of Excellence. These awards are in addition to those announced on September 12, 2002.

The awards were made as a result of proposals submitted in response to a solicitation issued in late 2001. The grants announced previously were selected for funding beginning in late calendar year 2002. These additional awards are possible with the resolution of the fiscal year 2003 NNSA budget.

The Center of Excellence at Rutgers University in Middlesex, NJ, will perform research in the area of Low Energy Nuclear Science in their project titled, "Center of Excellence for Radioactive Ion Beam Studies for Stewardship Science." The Center at the Carnegie Institute of Washington in Washington, DC, will perform research in the field of Materials Science in their "Center of Excellence for High Pressure Science and Technology." Fifteen other universities in nine states will also participate in the research at these Centers.

NNSA Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs Dr. Everet Beckner said, "Our grants to and cooperative programs with universities are significant contributors to the science which underpins the NNSA stewardship of the nuclear weapons stockpile. These grants are also a key means of training the scientists needed to maintain the outstanding capabilities of our national laboratories."

NNSA made the grants to:

- grow the U.S. scientific community through university involvement in areas of fundamental science and technology relevant to stockpile stewardship;
- promote and sustain scientific interactions between the academic community and scientists at the NNSA laboratories including the use of unique NNSA experimental facilities;
- train scientists in specific areas of research relevant to stockpile stewardship; and
- complement the current NNSA Advanced Simulation and Computing Academic Strategic Alliances Program by emphasizing primarily experimental research in forefront scientific areas aligned with the NNSA mission needs.

NNSA enhances U.S. national security through the military application of nuclear energy, maintains the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, promotes international nuclear non-proliferation and safety, reduces global danger from weapons of mass destruction, provides the U.S. Navy with safe and effective nuclear propulsion, and oversees national laboratories to maintain U.S. leadership in science and technology.

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