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Experimental Program to
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Issued: May 13, 2009

Deadlines: ABSTRACT: Noon, July 17, 2009

PROPOSAL: Noon, August 19, 2009

TO: Deans and Chairs in the Sciences, Engineering, and Mathematics (SEM)
FROM: Mark Hoffmann, Co-Project Director, ND EPSCoR, UND Office
David R. Givers, Co-Project Director, ND EPSCoR, NDSU Office
RE: New Faculty Start-Up Funding Opportunity

Department Chairs, Deans recruiting Department Chair/Head positions, and Directors of the two ND EPSCoR-designated Research Initiatives are invited to submit proposals requesting start-up funds for tenure-track research faculty to be hired during FY2011. **The major goal of this program is to attract highly qualified tenure-track faculty to our research-intensive universities who will be nationally competitive for grants from federal agency research programs in science, engineering, and mathematics.**

Proposals are due in the ND EPSCoR campus office by no later than **Noon, August 19, 2009**. Proposals will be reviewed by an external panel in late September or early October. The external panel will interview **only** the Dean, Department Chair, or Research Director submitting the proposal. The interviewee is welcome to bring six copies of supplemental hard copy handouts to this session, but no audio/visual aids will be allowed. This year's interviews will be held on the UND campus. Awards will be announced on or about **October 30, 2009**. ND EPSCoR anticipates making 10-15 awards for up to two years of support. Awards are contingent on continued funding from the National Science Foundation and the State of North Dakota. Funds should be available July 1, 2010, to hire a new Department Chair and September 1, 2010, for new faculty.

Key Points Relevant to this Award Program:

1. ND EPSCoR is focused on building research capabilities that are aligned with the research-intensive universities' institutional long-term research objectives; the research commitments of the higher education roundtable; and research that builds the economic base of North Dakota as expressed by the Governor and the State Legislature. Applicants should consider these points to devise an appropriate Research Infrastructure Development Plan (primary evaluation criterion 4).
2. Department hiring processes will be at various stages during proposal review. Thus, it is not necessary that individual recruits be named in the proposal. Rather, the evaluation will be based on the **Primary Evaluation Criteria** listed below.
3. Proposals will be reviewed externally, and this committee makes recommendations for funding. Each Co-Project Director, in collaboration with the campus Vice President for Research, negotiates award levels with the successful departments.
4. These funds should be allocated for faculty summer salary (two months maximum per summer), graduate research stipends (academic year and summer), research-related travel, critical permanent equipment, supplies, and other resources deemed essential for a promising investigator to launch a nationally-competitive research program. No academic year faculty salary is allowed.
5. These funds **must supplement and not replace** resources that would be used to recruit a new professor.
6. These funds are targeted for the new faculty member's exclusive use.

Primary Evaluation Criteria:

1. The quality and sustainability of the Research Infrastructure Development Plan for recruiting and hiring high-quality faculty with exemplary academic/professional qualifications.
2. The extent to which the applicant department can ensure/provide the environment; i.e., research space, reasonable teaching load, access to equipment and support staff, and the support of her/his colleagues necessary for building a **nationally-competitive** and **sustainable** research program in an area normally supported by the National Science Foundation.
3. The department, college, and other support available to the new faculty member provided by the applicant. Typically, though not required, the proposed department support level equals the amount requested from ND EPSCoR. It may be larger or smaller than the amount requested from ND EPSCoR. Support may be from sources within the university or from extramural (non-federal) funds.
4. The relevance of the department's Research Infrastructure Development Plan to long-term North Dakota research initiatives expressed by the Governor, the State Legislature, and the federal congressional delegation.

DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CAMPUS CO-PROJECT DIRECTOR ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND EXPECTATIONS REGARDING INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.

Checklist Requirements (Submit both paper and electronic versions):

Proposal Paper Copies: Original + 7.

No more than 11 double-spaced, one-sided pages, margins ≥ 1 ", with no less than a 10-point font. Staple all copies in the following order:

1. ND EPSCoR Cover page—Available from <http://www.ndepscor.nodak.edu/rfps/index.htm>
2. Abstract (one page) which must describe the long term plan for the department.
3. Proposal description (no more than eight pages).
4. NSF style budget sheet available from <http://www.ndepscor.nodak.edu/rfps/index.htm>
5. Appendices (20-page maximum) limited to and in the following order:
 - a) One-page fact sheet describing the state-of-the-department, including current faculty and their research expertise, active and recently expired grants and contracts, and average teaching loads.
 - b) Letters of commitment for support from department, college, or other sources.
 - c) Interdepartmental support letters if specific collaboration is proposed.
 - d) CVs of candidates who have received invitations for interviews from the applicant department (if appropriate, and if particularly strong candidates have been identified).

Proposal Electronic Copy: A complete proposal in a single PDF file to the campus Co-Project Director via e-mail attachment.

UND: Please direct questions to Mark R. Hoffmann at 701-777-2492 or markhoffmann@mail.und.nodak.edu

NDSU: Please direct your questions to David R. Givers at 701-231-7516 or David.Givers@ndsu.edu

For information about ND EPSCoR and other funding opportunities, please visit the Web site at www.ndepscor.nodak.edu