May 1, 2017

Dear Deans, Department Chairs and Directors,

The USDA NIFA has recently announced the AFRI Competitive Grants Program, Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources and Human Sciences Education and Literacy Initiative (ELI), a limited competition award (see the description at: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppid=293349) Two of the four program areas, PD-STEP and REEU limit the institution to a maximum of 3 applications. The deadline for these two program areas is June 28, 2017. The other two program areas are for Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships and are not limited. An Applicant must be a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States.

The Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Education Professional (PD-STEP) program area seeks to increase the number of K-14 teachers and educational professionals trained in the food, agriculture, natural resources, and human (FANH) sciences.

The REEU program area promotes research and extension learning experiences for undergraduates such that upon graduation they may enter the agricultural workforce with exceptional skills. This initiative will allow colleges and universities to provide fellowship opportunities for undergraduate students, including those from underrepresented and economically disadvantaged groups, minority-serving institutions, community colleges, and other universities.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for either the PD-STEP or the REEU program area, please upload your Letter of Interest (LOI) as a single document file into UVM’s InfoReady Portal for Institutional Competitions (https://uvm.infoready4.com/). The LOI should be no more than 3 pages (excluding any references), should indicate which program area is of interest and include a brief description of the proposed project and a statement about why you deem the proposal to be competitive for this competition. The deadline for submitting LOIs through the InfoReady Portal is May 12, 2017 before 4:30 pm after which the Portal will automatically close. If the number of interested applicants exceeds the number allotted by the sponsor, selection of the candidate to move forward shall be made shortly thereafter.

Please direct questions concerning this announcement to Hilda Alajajian.

Hilda Alajajian, MLS
Grant Resources Specialist
(802) 656-1322