DATE: October 24, 2014
TO: Distribution
FROM: Jennifer Gagnon, Associate Vice President for Research Administration

NSF's Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program is again soliciting proposals for instrument development and acquisition. Proposals will be considered for instrumentation used for any NSF-supported field of science, mathematics, and engineering. See the above internet address for details.

The MRI program will accept proposals for both acquisition and development of research instrumentation, and the University may submit up to three proposals to the program. Two of these proposals may be for instrument acquisition. In order to submit three proposals, at least one must be for instrument development.

For both acquisition and development proposals, we are required to cost share at a level of 30% of the total proposal project cost. The maximum award from NSF will be $4 million. Proposals must be for either acquisition or development of a single well-integrated instrument. The minimum award will be $100,000. There is no minimum for awards in mathematics, social, behavioral, or economic sciences. The minimum and maximum award amounts represent NSF’s contribution to the project and do not include the institution’s cost sharing.

At this time, I am requesting letters of intent from any faculty member wishing to apply to this program. These letters are due on November 10 and may be sent to Hilda Alajajian (Hilda.Alajajian@uvm.edu) as email attachments.

The letter should describe the instrument development or acquisition for which support is sought, the potential users of the instrument, the plan for cost-sharing, and why the proposed project would be competitive for the award. Please also describe the instrument’s potential to support the activities of one or more of the University’s strategic initiatives. Letters should also include an endorsement from the appropriate Department Chair and Dean. Proposed projects will be evaluated using the following criteria: the two standard NSF criteria, Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts; project alignment with the program goals; project feasibility strength; and thoroughness of the cost share plan.
The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR), in consultation with relevant Deans, will select the proposals to be submitted from UVM.

Deadlines:

Mon. Nov. 10, 2014  Submission of a letter of intent as described above. This letter should be addressed to my attention and sent to Hilda.Alajajian@uvm.edu

Mon. Dec. 01, 2014  Sponsored Project Administration (SPA) will notify potential applicants of the projects which have been selected for submission to NSF.

Thu. Jan. 08, 2015  Routing form packet completed with SPA.

Thu. Jan. 22, 2015 EST  Proposals must be received electronically at NSF by 5:00 p.m.

Please feel free to contact either Hilda Alajajian (Hilda.Alajajian@uvm.edu) or Jennifer Gagnon (Jennifer.Gagnon@uvm.edu) with questions.