SPONSORED PROJECT ADMINISTRATION
BURLINGTON, VT 05405

August 30, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has recently announced the next round of the NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program with a required letter of intent deadline of December 09, 2016 and a full application deadline of February 07, 2017. See the description at: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2016/nsf16503/nsf16503.htm

This cycle includes two tracks: The Traineeship Track and the Innovations in Graduate Education Track (IGE). The Traineeship Track is dedicated to effective training of STEM graduate students in high priority interdisciplinary research areas. The priority research areas for the FY2017 competition will be (1) Understanding the Brain (UtB), (2) Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems (INFEWS), and (3) any other interdisciplinary research theme of national priority. The IGE Track is dedicated solely to piloting, testing, and evaluating novel, innovative, and potentially transformative approaches to graduate education, both disciplinary and interdisciplinary.

Each institution may participate in two Traineeship Track proposals and two Innovations in Graduate Education Track proposals. Participation includes serving as a lead organization on a non-collaborative proposal or as a lead organization, non-lead organization, or subawardee on a collaborative proposal.

If you would like to put forth a proposal for either the Traineeship Track or the Innovations in Graduate Education Track please forward a brief pre-proposal (no more than 3 pages) specifying which one of the two tracks your proposal targets, a description of the research theme and research efforts, qualifications of the principal investigator and collaborating faculty, any proposed graduate education and training mechanisms, and any other information about why you deem the proposal to be competitive for the award. Pre-proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria: the two standard NSF criteria, Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts; project alignment with the program goals and project feasibility strength.

Pre-proposals should be addressed to my attention and sent to Hilda Alajajian (Hilda.Alajajian@uvm.edu). The deadline for submitting pre-proposals to Sponsored Project Administration is October 3, 2016.

Selection of the proposal shall be made shortly thereafter by the Dean of the Graduate College and the Vice President for Research in consultation with the Graduate Executive Committee and the Deans of the home units of the potential applicants.

Please be in touch if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Cindy Forehand
Dean, Graduate College