CALL FOR VERMONT EPSCoR
GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Submissions Due on the EPSCoR Web site by October 5, 2004, 4:00 p.m.

Vermont EPSCoR is pleased to announce that Graduate Research Assistantships are available on a competitive basis for research groups in the following areas:

Advanced Materials (AM)  Environmental Science and Engineering (ESE)
Biotechnology (BT)  Information Technology/Computational Science (IT/CS)

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW
The goal of this program is to provide research support for faculty so that they can be competitive for NSF funding. Consequently, the proposal must be written by the faculty principal investigator and designed to show how the requested student support will advance the P.I.'s research program. The support is primarily designed for students who have completed all, or nearly all, of their formal course work requirements and can devote full time to research. The optimal, but not required, case is where the student is qualified for “continuing registration.”

II. TYPES OF AWARDS
A. Graduate Students with an Early Career Advisor from the focus areas above. Focus on early career faculty (see III A.2).
B. Graduate Students with Joint Advisors: In each of two specific focus areas – Research on Water in the Environment (RWE) and Materials Science of Polymers and Composites – we are encouraging program building leading to multi-investigator grant proposals. These awards are not limited to early career faculty.
C. Pre-GOALI Award (Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry). In this program a graduate student would be jointly directed by a UVM faculty member and a private sector investigator. These awards are directed toward ultimate submission of an NSF GOALI proposal and are not limited to early career faculty. Preference will be given to partnerships involving businesses based and providing employment in Vermont.

III. CRITERIA
The criteria employed in selection of successful proposals are listed below:

A. Faculty Principal Investigator
1. UVM faculty with research in an area funded by the National Science Foundation. Preference will be given to tenure track faculty.
2. The primary focus is on early career persons who have not reached a level of significant external funding. Support for persons who are advanced in their careers but do not currently have significant support (from any source) will also be considered if a strong case for the importance of the research in question for a fundable proposal can be made. Preference will be given to early career faculty.
3. The project must have the potential to be nationally competitive.
4. Describe how the student will be mentored.

B. Student
   1. Availability for full time research as indicated above. Any formal courses or other requirements mandated for the degree and other courses in which the student will be enrolled should be indicated.
   2. We are interested in attracting members of previously underrepresented groups.
   3. Ph.D. students will take priority over MS students.

IV. Obligations associated with Funding
   1. A NSF grant must be submitted by the P.I. by 12/31/05
   2. Participation in yearly EPSCoR meetings by both advisor and graduate student.
   3. Annual reporting of progress to the EPSCoR office through the end of the EPSCoR grant period (3/31/06) upon request.

V. Period of support
   January 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005

VI. Application Procedure

1. Cover Page (download from website): HARD COPY WITH SIGNATURES MUST ARRIVE IN EPSCOR OFFICE BY OCTOBER 6, 2004, 4:00 P.M.

2. THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE SUBMITTED ON THE EPSCOR WEB SITE BY OCTOBER 5, 2004, 4:00 P.M.:  

IV. Graduate Research Assistantship Applications Package:
   1. A two page description of the project including any previous work done by the student on the project, but exclusive of citations. The description must show how the project will lead to potential NSF funding.
   2. The NSF directorate, division and (where possible) program to which a proposal will be submitted.
   3. A two page faculty C.V. (per faculty, if joint)
   4. A listing of all pending and current support (grants, contracts, subcontracts) including time commitments, dollar amounts (indicate if total or direct costs) and role in project. Record of amounts and dates of all previous EPSCoR, Vermont Genetics Network (VGN), or NIH COBRE support.
   5. A one page C.V. and transcript* and a course plan for the year of support for the student. In the course plan, include all courses for which the student will be enrolled for the proposed period of support.
   6. Any other information relevant to the selection criteria noted above.

*transcript may be mailed with cover page.

Contact Chris Allen, Project Director, Vermont EPSCoR at 656-0193 or by email (Christopher.Allen@uvm.edu) or go to the Vermont EPSCoR website at www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR if further information is required.