April 6, 2018

Dear Deans, Department Chairs and Directors,

Please share this announcement as appropriate.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has recently announced Research Education: Bridges to the Doctorate (R25), a limited competition award (see the description at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-17-209.html) with a deadline of September 25, 2018. The University may put forward a single application as lead institution for this award.

The Bridges to the Doctorate Program provides an opportunity to develop new, or expand existing, effective institutional programs aimed at a key juncture within higher education, namely the transition from a master's degree to a doctorate degree in biomedical sciences. Specifically, the Bridges Program provides support for institutions to develop and implement effective program interventions to address the challenges students from underrepresented groups face. The program also encourages institutions to diversify their student population. In doing so, the Bridges Program is expected to enhance the pool of individuals currently underrepresented in the biomedical sciences research enterprise, and ultimately contribute to NIH’s ability to ensure that it remains a leader in scientific discovery and innovation.

Each proposed Bridges to the Doctorate Program must consist of a partnership/consortium composed of at least two institutions, including the lead applicant institution. One must be an institution that offers the master's degree as the only graduate degree in the biomedical sciences. Another institution must be a college or university granting the Ph.D. degree in the biomedical sciences.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for this award, please upload a 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 three pages (excluding any references) and include a brief description of the proposed project and a statement about why you deem the proposal to be competitive for this competition. LOIs will be evaluated on the following criteria: 1) Alignment with the program goals; 2) Significance of the proposed program; 3) Qualifications of the Investigators; 4) Innovation; and 5) Feasibility. The deadline for submitting LOIs through the InfoReady Portal is May 7, 2018 before 4:30 pm after which the Portal will automatically close.

Please direct questions concerning this announcement to Hilda Alajajian.

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