January 24, 2018

Dear Department Chair/Program Director,

Please share with the faculty in your unit.

The annual deadline for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Cultivating Cultures for Ethical STEM (CCE STEM), a limited competition award (see the description at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18532/nsf18532.htm) is April 17, 2018. The University may put forward a single application for this award.

The NSF Cultivating Cultures for Ethical STEM program accepts proposals for innovative research projects that foster and substantially contribute to understanding what it takes to foster ethical STEM research in all of the fields of science and engineering that NSF supports, including within interdisciplinary, inter-institutional and international contexts. Two types of proposals will be accepted: Standard Research Grants and Institutional Transformation research Grants (ITRG). For ITRGs, it is highly recommended that one or more senior members of the administration (e.g. Provost, VP, and/or President) serve as a PI. CCE STEM research projects will use basic research to produce knowledge about what constitutes responsible or irresponsible, just or unjust scientific practices and sociotechnical systems, and how to best instill students with this knowledge. Please Note: “NSF does not consider proposals for medical research and hence, the program will not consider proposals focused on ethics for medical students or in medical education. It will consider proposals that address medical informatics, biomedical engineering, systems engineering and social scientific studies of health and medicine.”

If you are interested in submitting an application for this award, please upload a Letter of Interest (LOI) via UVM’s InfoReady Portal for Institutional Competitions at: https://uvm.infoready4.com/. The letter should be no more than three pages (excluding any references) and include which type of proposal is being submitted (Standard Research Grant or ITRG), a 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) Intellectual Merit; 2) Broader Impacts: 3) Alignment with program goals; 4) Innovation; and 5) Feasibility. The deadline for submitting letters of interest is, February 20, 2018 before 4:30 pm after which the portal will be closed.

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.

Sincerely,
Hilda (Hilda.Alajajian@uvm.edu or 802-656-1322)