Dear Colleagues,

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently announced Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) - see the description at http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2016/nsf16571/nsf16571.htm The University is invited to submit a single preliminary proposal. Full proposals will be accepted subsequently by the sponsor's invitation only. Preliminary proposals are due on September 14, 2016, with any invited full proposals due on April 24, 2017.

PIRE is an NSF-wide program that supports fundamental, international research and education in physical, living, human, and engineered systems. This sixth round of the PIRE competition will be open to all areas of science and engineering research which are supported by the NSF (including Education research). Interdisciplinary proposals are encouraged. PIRE projects may vary in size and exhibit diverse forms of organization, collaboration, and operation suited to their individual needs. PIRE projects must include collaboration with foreign research partners and international research experiences for students to promote a diverse internationally competitive science and engineering workforce.

If you would like to put forth a preliminary proposal for this award please forward a brief letter of interest (no more than 3 pages) describing the project theme and research efforts, qualifications of the principal investigator and international research partners, plans for student involvement and any other information about why you deem the proposal to be competitive for the award. Letters of interest will be evaluated on the following criteria: 1) Intellectual Merit; 2) Broader Impacts; 3) Qualifications and experience of the PI and; 4) Best fit for NSF’s program objectives:

- Support excellence in science and engineering research and education through international collaboration.
- Promote opportunities where international collaboration can provide unique advantages of scope, scale, flexibility, expertise, facilities, or access to phenomena, enabling advances that could not occur otherwise.
• Engage and share resources and research infrastructure within and across institutions to build strong international partnerships.
• Create and promote opportunities for students and early career researchers to participate in substantive international research experiences.

Letters of interest should be directed to Hilda Alajajian (Hilda.Alajajian@uvm.edu). The deadline for submitting letters of interest to Sponsored Project Administration is July 21, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Selection of the proposal to move forward as the University's preliminary proposal shall be made shortly thereafter.

Please be in touch if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Hilda Alajajian

Hilda Alajajian, MLS
Grant Resources Specialist
Sponsored Project Administration
University of Vermont
(802) 656-1322