December 7, 2016

Dear Deans,

NSF has recently announced the next competition cycle for the NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM) program (see the description at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17527/nsf17527.htm) with a deadline date of March 29, 2017. The program provides scholarships for low-income academically talented students with demonstrated financial need majoring in the sciences of biology, physics, chemistry, astronomy, materials, mathematics, computer and information, geology, geography, technology associated with the preceding disciplines, and engineering. Institutional, educational, or social science researchers may also play a role in the projects.

We are asking that each Dean coordinate the selection process for their unit to nominate an applicant for this program. An Institution may submit one proposal from each constituent school or college that awards degrees in an eligible field. If a candidate is identified in your unit, please send the name of the chosen candidate to Hilda Alajajian (Hilda.Alajajian@uvm.edu). Once a candidate has been selected, the submission process remains the same as always - through the Sponsored Project Administration Office (SPA).

UVM is only eligible to submit proposals under Track 2 and Track 3. Since UVM has already received an S-STEM award in the past we are not eligible to submit proposals under Track 1. Each of UVM’s constituent colleges or schools that award eligible degrees in an eligible field (e.g., College of Arts and Sciences, College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, College of Education and Social Services) may submit one proposal for either a Track 2 or a Track 3 project. The only exception is for Track 3; a proposal whose Principal Investigator is an educational or social science researcher in a program other than STEM does not count against the limit on the number of proposals submitted by institutions from S-STEM disciplines.

Program Description
The S-STEM program provides Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) with funds for scholarships to encourage and enable low-income academically talented students with demonstrated financial need to enter the workforce or graduate study following completion of associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees in STEM. Recognizing that scholarships alone cannot address low retention and graduation rates in STEM, the program also supports the implementation and testing of existing effective evidence-based curricular and co-curricular activities (e.g., evidence-based practices; professional and workforce development activities) featuring: (1) close involvement of STEM faculty, (2) student mentoring, (3)
provisions of academic and student support, (4) adaptation of existing high quality evidence-based practices, and (5) recognition of S-STEM Scholars. Successful projects include involvement of the Offices of Financial Aid, Offices of Student Services, Offices of Institutional Research, and business and industry.

Sincerely,

Hilda Alajajian
Grant Resources Specialist, SPA
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