



EPSCoR in Idaho

Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

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To: Chairs of STEM Departments at UI

From: Dr. Jean'ne M. Shreeve, EPSCoR/IDeA Project Director

RE: Funding to Enhance Graduate Student Recruitment in STEM fields

Date: December 1, 2006

The recruitment of highly qualified graduate students to masters and doctoral programs is essential to nationally competitive research programs, and a competitive level of graduate student support is one important aspect of attracting and retaining the very best graduate students.

Idaho NSF EPSCoR announces competitive funding to supplement the level of graduate student support in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) research areas at the University of Idaho. See page 2 of this announcement for application instructions.

The following conditions will apply to awards granted through this program:

- Eligible Graduate Research Assistants (RA) must be commencing their first graduate program.
- Preference may be toward U.S. Citizens or permanent residents.
- Preference may be toward recruitment of external students (non-UI undergraduates); however, current UI students are also eligible for support.
- Preference may be toward junior faculty mentors having demonstrated potential or progress toward research competitiveness.
- Faculty must demonstrate ability and commitment to provide continued support from non-EPSCoR sources at a minimum of \$18,500 (plus fees and health insurance) per 12-month RA appointment after EPSCoR funding has ceased.
- Awarded EPSCoR funds must be completely expended by May 31, 2008.
- Funding requests may vary, but awards generally will not exceed \$12,000. Requests must be justified by the described situation and opportunity.
- Funds may not be used to pay student fees only; fees may be paid in proportion to EPSCoR's contribution to the student's RA appointment (e.g., if 25% of the RA appointment is paid by EPSCoR during a semester, 25% of their fees for that semester may be paid using EPSCoR funds).

Requests for funding must clearly speak to increasing research competitiveness for the faculty member, since increasing movement of researchers into the mainstream of federal and private sector R&D support is an EPSCoR goal. **It is expected that this EPSCoR funding will add significant value to a recruiting situation.**

Each faculty applicant may submit only one proposal. Proposals should be received by Idaho EPSCoR no later than February 21, 2007.

Applicants should submit a short proposal/letter of request (maximum 2 pages) that describes:

- The faculty member's research program, and strategy and efforts being undertaken to obtain external research funding (including graduate assistant support).
- Current level of graduate stipend typically offered in the department/college and how it compares to benchmark programs with whom the applicant wishes to compete for students.
- Non-EPSCoR support available and a strategy to leverage EPSCoR funds to recruit a high-quality graduate student.
- A timeline for RA support.
- The graduate student who would be recruited to benefit from this award. The student's transcripts and vita must be included.

A limited number of awards are to be announced near March 1, 2007.

Please contact Mr. Rick Schumaker (rschumak@uidaho.edu) at Idaho EPSCoR if you have questions about this funding opportunity.