

This message is intended for faculty contemplating applying to the **NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) Program.**

A well-educated science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce is a significant contributor to maintaining the competitiveness of the U.S. in the global economy. The National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) program addresses the need for a high quality STEM workforce in STEM disciplines supported by the program and for the increased success of low-income academically talented students with demonstrated financial need who are pursuing associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Recognizing that financial aid alone cannot increase retention and graduation in STEM, the program provides awards to Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to fund scholarships and to advance the adaptation, implementation, and study of effective evidence-based curricular and co-curricular activities that support recruitment, retention, transfer (if appropriate), student success, academic/career pathways, and graduation in STEM. The S-STEM program encourages collaborations among different types of partners: Partnerships among different types of institutions; collaborations of STEM faculty and institutional, educational, and social science researchers; and partnerships among institutions of higher education and local business and industry, if appropriate.

The program seeks: 1) to increase the number of low-income academically talented students with demonstrated financial need obtaining degrees in STEM and entering the workforce or graduate programs in STEM; 2) to improve the education of future scientists, engineers, and technicians, with a focus on academically talented low-income students; and 3) to generate knowledge to advance understanding of how factors or evidence-based curricular and co-curricular activities affect the success, retention, transfer, academic/career pathways, and graduation in STEM of low-income students.

The STEM disciplines supported by the S-STEM program include:

- Biological sciences (except medicine and other clinical fields);
- Physical sciences (including physics, chemistry, astronomy, and materials science);
- Mathematical sciences;
- Computer and information sciences;
- Geosciences;
- Engineering; and
- Technology areas associated with the preceding disciplines (for example, biotechnology, chemical technology, engineering technology, information technology, etc.)

LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PER ORGANIZATION:

An Institution may submit **one proposal from each constituent school or college** that awards degrees in an eligible field. For example, a university with a College of Engineering, a School of Life Sciences, and a College of Arts and Sciences could submit one proposal from each for a total of three.

PI LIMIT:

The Principal Investigator must be a faculty member currently teaching in one of the S-STEM disciplines who can provide the leadership required to ensure the success of the project. Projects involving more than one department within an institution are eligible, but a single Principal Investigator must accept overall management responsibility. Other members of the S-STEM project management team may be listed as Co-Principal Investigators.

FULL PROPOSAL DEADLINE (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time): March 29, 2017.

Because of the above restrictions, Research and Sponsored Programs is requesting that all those interested in applying to the S-STEM competition submit an abstract for their project to Deborah Lundin by **Tuesday, February 7, 2017**. This will enable us to ensure that the University does not submit more than the allotted amount of proposals for our institution. If the number of abstracts we receive exceeds the number of proposals we are allowed to submit, we will advise the relevant faculty on how a nomination selection will be determined and how to proceed with the submission of the proposal.

You may download the complete program description and application guidelines at https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5257. If you have any questions about the program or nominating procedure, you may contact our office at ext. 2425.