

FY 2008 Program Announcement and Request for Proposals IING.2008.WV.03

WVEPSCoR International Innovation Grants Program

for the Innovative Improvement of Undergraduate Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education in West Virginia

Proposal Due Date: 30 October 2007

Summary of Program Requirements

- Program Title: International Innovations Grants
- Program Officer: Jan R. Taylor, Ph.D., Deputy Director/Senior Research Fellow
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Eligibility Limits

- **Organization:** All baccalaureate colleges and universities in West Virginia
- **PI Eligibility:** Tenure-track faculty from all four-year institutions in West Virginia. PIs who have received instrumentation awards in the two prior years are only eligible to receive an award in this competition as a supplement to a National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded project.
- **Limit on Number of Proposals:** No college/university may submit more than one proposal/year.

Award Information

- **Anticipated Type of Award:** Standard
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** 1
- **Limit on funding per award:** \$40,000

Program Description

The purpose of the West Virginia EPSCoR International Innovation Grant Program is two-fold: (1) to support the development of an international component in one or more STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs at a West Virginia institution; and (2) to encourage STEM faculty and students to think globally about research collaboration, grant opportunities and exchange programs. Rapid changes in technology and the accelerating trend toward globalization are creating extraordinary new opportunities—not only in commerce, culture and education, but also in scientific research. Like Instrumentation Grants, the International Innovation Grants Program makes awards to purchase modern instruments and supplies and conduct minor renovations for advanced undergraduate laboratories. However, the International Innovation Program seeks to target larger, more ambitious, cohesive, and/or more comprehensive innovations in laboratory/classroom settings. WVEPSCoR has created the International Innovation Grant Program to assist West Virginia faculty and students in seizing these opportunities. One International Innovation Grant of up to \$40,000 will be awarded each year, and a match of at least 50% is required from the home institution of the winning proposal.

Faculty from all four-year institutions, both public and private, are eligible to apply for this grant. Proposals will be considered from any STEM field. Each institution may submit only one proposal for this grant program. Investigators who received International Innovation awards in the last two years are only eligible to receive an award in this competition as a supplement to an NSF-funded project. WVEPSCoR provides up to \$40,000 for the International Innovation award. Institutional support of at least 50% is required, making the maximum proposal approximately \$60,000. (Requests for < the maximum EPSCoR funds and/or providing an excess in non-EPSCoR match are allowable.)

Grant funds may be utilized for a variety of innovative purposes and activities including curriculum, scientific equipment, and travel. Cost share may include up to \$10,000 in in-kind match.

Application

The application should be **submitted via email** to the Program Officer in a single Word file with a separate cover sheet and budget file. The budget spreadsheet may be downloaded from <http://www.wvepscor.org/library/files/10046.xls>. Applications for International Innovation Grants must be submitted by the specified due date.

Cover Sheet: Prepare a cover sheet that includes the title of the proposal, the name and contact information of the Principal Investigator and the name and contact information of the institution's financial officer. Endorsement of the proposal by the applicant and an appropriate authorized institutional representative is required. The cover sheet with signatures may be scanned and submitted electronically.

Project Description: Should not exceed four (4) pages of single-spaced text in a legible font such as 10-pt Arial or 12-pt Times New Roman. Provide a project narrative that addresses the following questions:

- How will the proposed project enhance the quality and/or capacity of STEM-related research and education at the institution?
- In what ways will the proposed project include a meaningful international dimension to STEM-related research and education at the institution?
- Does the applicant currently engage in STEM-related international collaboration? If so, please describe the nature and duration of this collaboration, and provide the names and contact information of collaborators.
- How many students will benefit from the proposed project, and in what ways?
- How many faculty/researchers will benefit from the proposed project, and in what ways?
- Is the applicant seeking alternative support for the proposed project? If so, from what sources?

Biographical Sketch: A one-page biographical sketch of the Principal Investigator(s). If additional investigator(s) or co-PIs will play a significant role in the proposal, then up to one additional page for each Co-PI may be added.

Budgetary Information

Cost Sharing: Cost sharing of 50% of the proposed WVEPSCoR contribution is required. An in-kind match of up to \$10,000 is allowed. Show the proposed cost sharing on the budget spreadsheet. Provide a budget justification not exceeding one page.

Indirect Cost Limitations: Overhead costs are not allowed.

Other Budgetary Limitations: Grant funds may be utilized for a variety of innovative purposes and activities including curriculum, scientific equipment, and travel. No awards will be made for personal computers that are not linked to or critical to the operation of laboratory equipment.

Review and Award Procedures

The primary review criteria will be the extent to which: (a) the proposed project will enhance STEM-related research and education at the institution; and (b) the proposed project includes a substantive and meaningful international component to STEM-related research and education at the institution. Review procedures and panels typically take 6-8 weeks to complete.

Award Administration Information

Notification of awards will be made to the submitting PI and to the submitting organization. PIs whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible. Copies of review comments, not including the identity of the reviewer, will be provided automatically to the Principal Investigator.

Reporting Requirements

All recipients of WVEPSCoR funding are required to provide a written report to WVEPSCoR within 60 days of the end of the grant period. Recipients are expected to summarize the impact and outcomes of the award, final expenditures, significant insights, numbers of students served, secondary or advanced proposals to other programs such as NSF CCLI or other federal, private, or state programs, and overall success of the award. The report will be filed with the Program Officer via email.

Awardees also may be invited to prepare a poster presentation demonstrating these outcomes at the annual Research Day/State Conference. WVEPSCoR will provide travel funds to the lead investigator and a limited number of students.

Contact Information:

If unable to submit proposal electronically or for all other questions, please use the contact information provided below.

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