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From: Susan De Los Santos, Faculty Research Support Officer
           Monica Fishel, Faculty Research Support Officer
           Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Microsoft Research Faculty Fellowship Program

Date: September 9, 2013

Each year since 2005, Microsoft Research has recognized innovative, promising new faculty members from a number of research institutions to join the ranks of Microsoft Research Faculty Fellows. The Microsoft Research Faculty Fellowship program now encompasses 59 academic researchers whose exceptional talent for research and innovation in computer science identifies them as emerging leaders in their fields. The selected professors are exploring breakthrough, high-impact research that has the potential to help solve some of today's most challenging societal problems. Microsoft Research seeks nominees who are advancing computing research in novel directions with the potential for high impact on the state of the art, and who demonstrate the likelihood of becoming thought leaders in the field. The future of computing in academe rests with its newest faculty. In these early-career professionals lie the seeds of tomorrow's great innovations. However, while recognized faculty with well-established reputations are able to attract the financial support necessary for substantial research programs, new faculty often struggle to secure adequate support to allow them to realize their full potential. Because new faculty are so vital to the future of academic computer science, the Microsoft Research Faculty Fellowship Program identifies, recognizes, and supports exceptional new faculty members who are engaged in innovative computing research. The objective of this program is to stimulate and support creative research undertaken by promising researchers who have the potential to make a profound impact on the field of computing in their research disciplines.

Microsoft Research will select fellows this year from nominees from four regions: Latin America and the Caribbean; Europe, the Middle East, and Africa; the United States and Canada; and Australia and New Zealand. Candidates for the Microsoft Research Faculty Fellowship program must be nominated by their research institution, and their nominations must be confirmed by a letter from the head of the institution (for example, office of the Provost, Pro-Vice Chancellor, President, Rector, Vice-Rector, and so on). Direct applications from new faculty members are not accepted. Although not stated on their webpage, the amount in years past has been $200K as a cash award. The Microsoft Research Faculty Fellows also have access to other Microsoft resources, such as software, invitations to conferences, and engagements with Microsoft Research.No more than one nomination from each research institution will be accepted. More details can be found at: http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/collaboration/awards/msrff.aspx. Microsoft awards Microsoft Research Faculty Fellowship grants each year; awardees are selected by April. Nomination submission window closes on September 30, 2013.

This is a limited competition; each institution is limited to one nomination. Please submit your 3-page preproposal (plus budget and CV; all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11 point font) by NOON on Friday, September 13, 2013 to limited@unm.edu with the subject line indicating: Microsoft Research Fellowship - your name. No late submissions will be considered. The pre-proposal should address the major points that will be included in the proposal narrative (including: What is the innovative merit of the nominee's research? How does the nominee's work have the potential to advance the state of the art?

How is the university currently supporting the nominee's work? Does the nominee's current work receive funding from other grant sources? If yes, please list. Provide a statement detailing the hypothesis, objectives, and methodology of the nominee's research work and plans. Include a brief description of how the award funds would be used). The narrative should be accompanied by a draft budget overview and an abbreviated PI CV. The scoring will be weighted as follows: proposal narrative (70%), draft budget overview (15%), and abbreviated PI CV (15%).

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Susan De Los Santos (sdelossa@unm.edu or 277-0272) or Monica Fishel (mlfishel@unm.edu or 277-8114).

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford at 272-6950 for more information.