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Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: NSF Partnerships for Research and Education in Materials (PREM), NSF 14-606

Date: November 17, 2014

The objective of PREM is to enhance the diversity of the workplace in materials research and education by stimulating the development of formal, long-term, research and education collaborations between minority-serving colleges and universities and DMR-supported centers and facilities. PREM awards are expected to achieve significant increases in the number and quality of interactions between faculty and students at minority-serving colleges/universities and participants from the DMR-supported centers and facilities. They should result in increasing the number of graduate materials-related degrees for underrepresented minorities and in networking and dissemination of new knowledge. Funded activities might include, but are not limited to, the development of collaborative and mutually beneficial materials research and education projects, support for graduate and undergraduate students, and exchanges of faculty and students. High school students and teachers may also participate.

Of special interest to DMR are activities based on research and education connections between the participants and designed to increase the recruitment, retention and degree attainment by members of underrepresented groups in materials research. The participation of 2-year and 4-year Associate degree-granting institutions in partnership with eligible institutions may be considered for this goal (see Section IV for specific eligibility requirements). While PREM awards engage scientists in fundamental materials research, activities that encourage entrepreneurship are also of special interest to NSF, as are those that offer an international experience. Proposers are encouraged to contact NSF program staff listed in Section VIII to discuss the appropriateness of the planned activities, and check eligibility requirements. To date, successful PREMs have a strong overlap in research focus with the partner institution, and fully integrate the partner into the research and education activities of the PREM. In addition, successful PREMs have a well-defined management structure, with active internal and external advisory committees.

The Principal Investigator must hold a faculty appointment at an eligible college or university as defined in the 'Eligible Academic Institutions' section. A co-PI must be identified at the DMR-supported center and/or facility.

Eligible partners include DMR-supported centers and facilities. DMR-supported centers include all Materials Research Science and Engineering Centers (MRSECs), the 2 Nanoscale Science and Engineering Centers (NSECs), and the 2 Science and Technology Centers (STCs) funded by DMR. Eligible facilities include DMR-supported synchrotron and neutron facilities and the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory. Note that not all NSF-funded NSECs and STCs are supported by DMR. Only materials research and education activities within the NSEC, STC, or DMR-supported facility are eligible to be part of the proposed partnership. Have the NSF award number of the DMR supported partner ready when calling the program officers. Information on eligible partners may be found at:

DMR-supported centers:

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5295&org=DMR&from=home

DMR-supported facilities:

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5359&org=DMR&from=home

NSF expects to make Continuing Grants. The estimated number of awards will be 4 to 8. Awards are anticipated to be effective in July 2015. The total anticipated funding amount in FY 2015 is approximately \$3,000,000. Awards are expected to be \$300,000 to \$700,000 per year for up to 5 years. More details can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2014/nsf14606/nsf14606.htm>

The deadline for the full proposal to the agency is January 7, 2015.

This is a limited competition; each institution may submit no more than one (1) proposal on which it is the lead organization in response to this solicitation. Please submit your 3-page preproposal (plus budget and CV; all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11 point font) by NOON on Monday, December 1, 2014 to limited@unm.edu with the subject line indicating: NSF PREM 14-606 - 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: 1) identification of an eligible partner (DMR supported center or facility), 2) a concise description of the long-term research and education goals and intellectual focus of the partnership, 3) the role and intellectual contribution of each senior participant in the PREM, 4) the role of any external advisory committee and internal executive committee, 5) and a brief outline of the resources available or planned to accomplish the research goals. 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.