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Subject: NSF Research Traineeship Program (NRT) NSF 15-542

Date: February 20, 2015

The NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program is designed to encourage the development and implementation of bold, new, potentially transformative, and scalable models for STEM graduate education training. The NRT program seeks proposals that ensure that graduate students in research-based master's and doctoral degree programs develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to pursue a range of STEM careers. The NRT program includes **two tracks**: the **Traineeship Track** and the **Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) Track**. The **Traineeship Track** is dedicated to effective training of STEM graduate students in high priority interdisciplinary research areas, through the use of a comprehensive traineeship model that is innovative, evidence-based, aligned with changing workforce and research needs, and scalable. **For this solicitation the Traineeship Track has one priority interdisciplinary research theme — Data-Enabled Science and Engineering (DESE); proposals are encouraged also on any non-DESE interdisciplinary research theme that is a national priority.** The **IGE Track** is dedicated solely to piloting, testing, and evaluating novel, innovative, and potentially transformative approaches to graduate education, both disciplinary and interdisciplinary, to generate the knowledge required for their customization, implementation, and broader adoption. Whereas the Traineeship Track promotes building on the current knowledge base to more effectively train STEM graduate students, the IGE Track supports test-bed projects with high potential to enrich, improve, and extend the knowledge base with attention to transferability and innovation. **For both tracks**, strategic collaborations with the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies, national laboratories, field stations, teaching and learning centers, museums, and academic partners are encouraged.

The NRT Program expects to make 24 to 30 awards (10 anticipated for the Traineeship Track and 14-20 for the IGE Track), pending availability of FY 15 and FY 16 funds. Traineeship Track Awards are expected to be up to five years in duration with a budget up to \$3,000,000. IGE Track Awards are expected to be up to 2-3 years in duration with a budget between \$300,000 and \$500,000. More details can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15542/nsf15542.htm>. The deadline for the letter of intent, which is recommended but not required, is March 25, 2015. The deadline for full proposals to the NSF is May 6, 2015.

This is a limited competition; only three Research Traineeship Program proposals may be submitted by any one organization: 2 for the Traineeship Track, 1 for the Innovations in Graduate Education Track. If an institution submits only one Traineeship Track proposal, it can be on either DESE or another theme. If an institution submits two Traineeship Track proposals, *at least one* must be a DESE proposal. In either case (DESE or non-DESE), the traineeship theme of a Traineeship Track proposal must be interdisciplinary. An individual may serve as Lead Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-PI on only one proposal submitted to the NRT program.

Please submit your 3-page preproposal (plus budget and CV; all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11 point font) by NOON on Monday, March 9, 2015 to limited@unm.edu with the subject line indicating: NSF-15-542 - your name. No late submissions will be considered. The pre-proposal should address the major points that will be included in the proposal narrative (for Traineeship Track proposals, provide a brief summary of the vision and goals of the proposed training program including a brief description of the interdisciplinary research theme, the main training elements, the integration of the research and training, the need for the program, as well as scalability and transferability; for IGE Track proposals, provide a brief description of the graduate education models, approaches, or activities to be piloted and tested,

including a brief description of the disciplinary or interdisciplinary needs and/or challenges addressed). For Traineeship Track proposals, the title should begin with “NRT-DESE” for projects with a Data-Enabled Science and Engineering theme, and with “NRT” for projects on a cross-cutting, interdisciplinary theme other than DESE; for Innovations of Graduate Education Track proposals, the title should begin with “NRT-IGE.” The 3-page 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%). *It is expected that one spot for the Traineeship Track will be reserved for a previously submitted proposal that is being revised per NSF feedback.*

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Monica Fishel (mlfishel@unm.edu or 277-8114) or Allison Hagerman (alphao@unm.edu or 277-0168).