Limited Submission Funding Opportunity

National Science Foundation: Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) in Engineering and Computer Science


FOA#: 15-536

The RET program supports active long-term collaborative partnerships between K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, Computer and Information Science, and Mathematics (STEM) teachers and community college and university faculty and students to bring knowledge of engineering or computer and information science and engineering as well as technological innovation to pre-college/community college classrooms. The goal of these partnerships is to enable K-12 STEM teachers and community college faculty to translate their research experiences and new knowledge gained in university settings into their classroom activities. The university team will include faculty, graduate and undergraduate students as well as industrial advisors. Involvement of graduate students in support of academic-year classroom activities is particularly encouraged. Partnerships with inner city, rural or other high needs schools are especially encouraged, as is participation by underrepresented minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

As part of the long-term partnership arrangements, university undergraduate/graduate students will partner with pre-college/community college faculty in their classrooms during the academic year to help teach engineering/computer science concepts.

This announcement features two mechanisms for support of in-service and pre-service K-12 STEM teachers and community college faculty:

**RET in Engineering and Computer Science Supplement.** A request for funding of a RET in Engineering and Computer Science Supplement should be made under an existing NSF ENG or CISE award or within a proposal for a new or renewed NSF ENG or CISE award. The description of the RET activity must clearly articulate in some detail the form and nature of the prospective K-12 STEM teacher and/or community college faculty member's involvement in the Principal Investigator's ongoing or proposed research. It is expected that the RET in Engineering and Computer Science Supplement experience will also lead to the transfer of new knowledge to classroom activities.

**RET in Engineering and Computer Science Site Project.** A RET in Engineering and Computer Science Site project is an independent proposal, submitted under this solicitation at an annual deadline date, to provide groups of in-service and pre-service K-12 STEM teachers and/or community college faculty with discovery and technology-based research experiences in engineering and/or computer science laboratories and facilities, which will then be incorporated into their classroom activities during the school year. A RET in Engineering and Computer
Science Site project may be conducted during the summer, academic year, or both, and each must have a well-defined research focus, with clearly articulated projects and activities for 10 or more teachers and/or community college faculty per year.

**ELIGIBILITY**
The principal investigator of a RET in Engineering and Computer Science Site proposal must have a full-time, tenured or tenure-track faculty appointment within a College/Department of Engineering or Engineering Technology or a College/Department of Computer and/or Information Science broadly defined (e.g., including HCI, Software Engineering, Networking Science, Informatics) within the submitting U.S. academic institution.

**LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PER ORGANIZATION**
- Three Site proposals may be submitted per competition by a U.S. academic institution, including a College/Department of Engineering, Engineering Technology, or Computer and/or Information Science as the lead institution.
- Please note that two proposals may have an engineering focus and one proposal may have a computer and/or information science focus.

**KEY DATES**
Internal Letter of Intent Due: July 21, 2015 (by midnight)
Sponsor Proposal Due: November 2, 2015

**SUBMITTING A MANDATORY LETTER OF INTENT**
Faculty members interested in applying are required to submit a letter of intent (LOI). An LOI is required but not binding.

1. Click [here](#) to access the form.
2. Name the LOI as follows: “LastName-FirstInitial-LOI-NSF-RET-2015”, replacing “LastName” with your last name and “First Initial” with your first initial.
3. Click on the Vault ticket: [https://vault2.northwestern.edu/xythoswfsv6/xy-e6628606_1-t_pwIfQZoA](https://vault2.northwestern.edu/xythoswfsv6/xy-e6628606_1-t_pwIfQZoA)
4. Click the Upload button.
5. Click the Browse button and navigate to your file on your hard drive or network.
6. Click the OK button.

Note: You will get a tiny confirmation message upon upload. If you do not see it, you may contact Karen Cielo k-cielo@northwestern.edu for a confirmation.

**COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES:**
The Office of Research Development offers assistance in identifying and facilitating collaborations, putting together interdisciplinary teams, programmatic and administrative development of large, cross-school proposals, and leveraging institutional resources for outreach and education. Contact Fruma Yehiely (vehiely@northwestern.edu), Director of ORD, for more information.
CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
Fruma Yehiely, Associate Vice President for Research, Director of ORD, 847-491-1074, yehiely@northwestern.edu
Limited Submissions web site: http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/