Limited Submission Funding Opportunity

National Science Foundation

Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Pathways into Geoscience


Note that this funding opportunity has a short timeline.

FOA#: 15-526

Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Pathways into Geoscience (IUSE: GEOPATHS) funding opportunity invites creative proposals to broaden and strengthen the pathways that will engage and retain undergraduate students in geoscience education and career pathways, and help prepare them for a variety of careers. The long-term goal of this program is to dramatically increase the number and diversity of students earning undergraduate degrees or enrolling in graduate programs in geoscience fields, as well as ensure that they have the necessary skills and competencies to succeed as next generation professionals in a variety of employment sectors.

The overarching questions being address through this solicitation are:

- Which strategies are most effective for increasing the number and diversity of students entering the geoscience workforce pipeline?
- Which approaches are most effective in retaining undergraduate students in the geoscience pipeline?
- Which activities are most effective in preparing undergraduate geoscience majors for the workforce, and smoothing their transition post-graduation?
- Which strategies are most effective for increasing the number and diversity of non-geoscience undergraduate majors that pursue post-baccalaureate degrees in geoscience?

The IUSE: GEOPATHS solicitation offers two distinct funding Tracks: (1) Engaging students in the geosciences through extra-curricular experiences and training (GEOPATHS-EXTRA) and (2) Improving pathways into the geosciences through institutional collaborations (GEOPATHS-IMPACT).

GEOPATHS-EXTRA projects are expected to focus on the needs of individual students, primarily by offering cohort-based, extra- or co-curricular experiences that complement the submitting institution’s existing Bachelor’s degree curriculum. Note: Due to its “very high research activity” as identified by the Carnegie Classifications, Northwestern University may not serve as the lead institution and may only submit proposals as the non-lead institution of a collaborative GEOPATHS-EXTRA proposal.

GEOPATHS-IMPACT projects are expected to establish new, or strengthen existing, institutional partnerships and collaborations that provide sustainable pathways and support
mechanisms for facilitating transitions of undergraduate students at critical junctions: between high school and undergraduate geoscience programs; between two-year undergraduate institutions and four-year institution geoscience degree programs; between baccalaureate degrees in geoscience and the geoscience workforce; or, between baccalaureate degrees (in any field) and post-baccalaureate geoscience programs.

**LIMIT ON NUMBER OF PROPOSALS PER ORGANIZATION**
An organization may serve as sole submitting institution or as lead institution of a collaborative project on only one submission per competition, regardless of track, but may serve as the non-lead institution of a collaborative project more than once per competition.

**KEY DATES**
- Internal Letter of Intent Due: December 17, 2014 (by midnight)
- Sponsor Letter of Intent Due (Required): January 5, 2015 (by 5 pm)
- Sponsor Proposal Due: March 16, 2015 (by 5 pm)

**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 LOI form.
2. Name the LOI as follows: “LastName-FirstInitial-LOI-NSF-IUSE-GEO-2015”, replacing “LastName” with your last name and “First Initial” with your first initial.
3. Click on the Vault ticket: [https://vault2.northwestern.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e6065283_1-t_3173d759](https://vault2.northwestern.edu/xythoswfs/webui/_xy-e6065283_1-t_3173d759)
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 (yehiely@northwestern.edu), Director of ORD, for more information.

**CONTACT AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**
Fruma Yehiely, Director of ORD, 847-491-1074, yehiely@northwestern.edu
Limited Submissions web site: [http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/](http://www.research.northwestern.edu/ord/funding/limited-submissions/)