Call for Proposals for NSF-supported Mini-grants  
(RU FAIR Cycle III: Deadline July 16, 2010)

The Rutgers University Office for the Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics (WiSEM) has been awarded a five-year Institutional Transformation grant for $3.67 million dollars from the ADVANCE program of the National Science Foundation (NSF). The grant, entitled Rutgers University for Faculty Advancement and Institutional Re-Imagination (RU FAIR), runs from September 1, 2008 - August 31, 2013 and serves the Camden, Newark, and New Brunswick campuses of Rutgers University. The overall goal of the RU FAIR initiative is to remove barriers to recruitment and retention of women faculty, to advocate for greater diversity in senior leadership positions, and to provide higher visibility to the achievements of Rutgers’ women faculty in science, engineering, and mathematics (SEM) disciplines.

RU FAIR mini-grants are awarded to qualified individuals and/or teams of researchers in NSF-supported academic disciplines across Rutgers for initiatives that encourage interdisciplinary research and improve the climate for SEM women on all three campuses of Rutgers. More specifically, these grants are designed for faculty advancement and development to stimulate interdisciplinary course development, training, leadership, and research as well as to increase retention through strengthened networks and informal mentorship, thus furthering the professional advancement and collaboration potential of SEM women, especially minority women. Of particular interest is the desire and need to provide seed money for interdisciplinary research collaborations among Rutgers women’s programs, such as the nationally acclaimed Rutgers Institute for Women’s Leadership (IWL), and Rutgers SEM faculty. The vision is to use RU FAIR mini-grants to bring these academic cultures together. Funds from the grant, however, are not intended to support an individual’s research program where that research is not directly related to institutional goals of diversity, equity, and advancement of faculty at Rutgers.

These small grants are part of our efforts to transform Rutgers University, with the long-term goal of making the university more supportive of women in SEM fields. Young women faculty, especially assistant professors, need to enhance the prominence of their research. All professors need to expand and strengthen their networks. The mini-grants are intended to foster interdisciplinary activities across departments, centers, schools, and campuses, especially those activities that would promote collaborations among women’s studies programs and SEM faculty, or activities that would encourage collaborations among the Camden, Newark, and New Brunswick campuses.

RU FAIR mini-grants will be selected based on an annual competitive application process and are open to all Rutgers’ faculty, in NSF-supported disciplines, on all three campuses (see below or refer to http://www.umbc.edu/promise/pages/NSF%20supported%20fields.htm for a complete list). Applications from faculty not in disciplines supported by NSF will only be considered if collaborating with an NSF-supported discipline. Grant awards are anticipated to range in amount from $500 to $5,000, with the expectation of annually awarding five to seven grants. The current mini-grant awards cycle will run from September 1, 2010 - August 31, 2011.

Proposals can be directed towards a broad range of topics. Some illustrative examples for funding are given below.

• Develop programming on topics relating to women’s professional development.
• Conduct informal departmental research seminars to promote collaborations and intra- and inter-departmental networking.
• Encourage faculty-to-faculty mentoring relationships.
• Examine research on different career paths of men and women SEM faculty.
• Coordinate electronic communications and program development for improved dissemination of information.
• Sponsor SEM-related events at different Rutgers locations (for example, bringing a panel of speakers from Newark and New Brunswick to Camden).
• Create partnerships between social and natural scientists that focus on gender equity.
• Sponsor a colloquium to explore the interface between women’s studies and scientific discourse.
• Sponsor events or research that deals with diversity in SEM fields.
• Carry out a study of childcare needs at Rutgers.
• Support an art exhibition that examines scientific and technological themes in contemporary culture.

*Please note that the mini-grant program does not provide seed money for an individual faculty member’s research unless that research directly relates to women faculty in SEM and one or more of the initiatives of the ADVANCE grant (see below).

**About Rutgers RU FAIR / NSF ADVANCE**

The RU FAIR grant supports five major initiatives to increase the participation and advancement of faculty women in science, engineering, and mathematics on all three Rutgers campuses. The five initiatives are:

- The Recruitment and Retention Initiative: Seeks to increase the number of women, especially minority women, on the Rutgers SEM faculty.
- The Communication Initiative: Focuses on communications across campuses, centers, and departments.
- The Networking and Liaison Initiative: Seeks to build collaborations between Rutgers SEM faculty and the Rutgers Institute for Women’s Leadership (IWL) through such mechanisms as interdisciplinary mini-grants.
- The Visibility Initiative: Promotes Rutgers women SEM faculty through expanded faculty profiles and personal stories on the WiSEM website, sponsorship of a lecture series of prominent women faculty members and outstanding postdoctoral associates for awards, and solicitations of press coverage for Rutgers search.
- The Family Initiative: Seeks to bolster the resources available for dual-care families and for families with children.

The full text of the RU FAIR/NSF ADVANCE proposal can be found on the RU FAIR website at [http://rufair.rutgers.edu/](http://rufair.rutgers.edu/)

**Application Process**

The text of the proposal should be 2-3 pages in length, including a narrative outlining the proposed activity or program. The narrative should include details for how the proposed plan will help meet RU FAIR/NSF ADVANCE objectives which specifically relate to women faculty in SEM fields, and a description of how it will foster interdisciplinary activities and collaborations. Where appropriate, provide citations to the literature. In addition, submit a current *curriculum vitae*, a proposed budget, and a budget justification. The *c.v.*, budget, and budget justification are in addition to the narrative section and not part of the page limit. The template from the Rutgers Office of Research and Sponsored Programs [http://orsp.rutgers.edu/](http://orsp.rutgers.edu/) is necessary for the proposed budget. Proposals should be submitted in pdf or doc format online to sciwomen@rci.rutgers.edu by **July 16, 2010**. You are strongly encouraged to talk with
RU FAIR Director, Dr. Doreen Valentine dvalen@rutgers.edu before submitting a proposal. If the proposal involves collecting data from human subjects, IRB protocols must be followed and tracked. Please contact us for more information.

Faculty members who are awarded RU FAIR mini-grants will be expected to provide a final report to the RU FAIR Management Board within 3 months of the proposal award. This report is submitted to NSF and the university as part of our annual reports. Where appropriate, we will seek press coverage and other publicity for programs and events supported by mini-grants.

Selection Criteria

The criteria for evaluating proposals will include feasibility, campus needs, and potential to promote interdisciplinary, inter-school, and intercampus activities that will lead to a permanent change in the culture for women and minority faculty of Rutgers University.

RU FAIR Mini-Grant Proposal Checklist

- Does the proposed project or activity relate to faculty women at Rutgers University?
- Does the proposed project or activity relate to one of the five major initiatives of the grant?
- Is at least one investigator on the mini-grant project a faculty member of an NSF-supported SEM discipline? The eligible disciplines can be broadly categorized as: physical sciences (e.g., physics, chemistry, astronomy), life sciences and geosciences (e.g., biology, ecology, environmental science), engineering and computer science, mathematics, and social sciences (e.g., psychology, anthropology, sociology, geography). Please see the attached sheet (also available at http://www.umbc.edu/promise/pages/NSF%20supported%20fields.htm) for a complete list of NSF-supported disciplines and the associated fine print. Note that health and medicine fields (including social work, clinical psychology, and nursing) are not considered NSF-supported disciplines, but some humanities fields are NSF-supported (e.g., philosophy and history of science, linguistics).
- Is your budget prepared using the ORSP template?
- Would you be able to carry out your project or activity with less than the budgeted amount, if necessary?
# National Science Foundation's SUPPORTED FIELDS
(Based on required disciplines for fellowship funding)

## CHEMISTRY
- 5230 Analytical
- 5250 Bio-inorganic
- 5260 Bio-organic
- 5240 Bio-organic
- 9994 Environmental
- 5290 Inorganic
- 5330 Organic
- 5350 Physical
- 5331 Polymer
- 5370 Theoretical
- 5399 Chemistry, other (specify)

## COMPUTER AND INFORMATION

### SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (CISE)
- 7240 Artificial Intelligence
  (including Robotics and Expert Systems)
- 7210 Computer Science - Languages and Systems
- 7200 Computer Science - Theory
- 7270 Computer Systems Design
  (including Signal Processing)
- 7230 Database Systems
- 7261 Graphics
- 7260 Human Computer Interaction
- 7250 Information Technology and Organizations
- 7290 Networks and Communications
- 7280 Scientific Computing
- 7220 Software Engineering
- 7299 CISE, other (specify)

## ENGINEERING
- 6210 Aeronautical and Aerospace
- 6240 Agricultural
- 6250 Bioengineering and Biomedical
- 6330 Chemical
- 6350 Civil
- 6388 Computer Engineering
- 6390 Electrical and Electronic

## MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
- 7010 Algebra or Number Theory
- 7030 Analysis
- 7050 Applications of Mathematics
  (including Biometrics and Biostatistics)
- 7110 Geometry
- 7130 Logic or Foundations of Mathematics
- 7140 Operations Research
- 7150 Probability and Statistics
- 7170 Topology
- 7199 Mathematics, other (specify)

## PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY
- 4999 Astronomy
- 4930 Astrophysics
- 8040 Atomic and Molecular
- 8050 Condensed Matter Physics
- 8160 Nuclear
- 8180 Optics
- 8110 Particle Physics
- 8200 Physics of Fluids
- 8210 Plasma
- 8220 Solid State
- 8260 Theoretical Physics
- 8299 Physics, other (specify)

## PSYCHOLOGY
- 4125 Cognitive
- 4120 Cognitive Neuroscience
- 4130 Developmental
- 4150 Experimental or Comparative
- 4189 Industrial/Organizational
- 4155 Neuropsychology
- 4165 Perception and Psychophysics
- 4170 Personality and Individual Differences
- 4158 Physiological
- 4162 Quantitative
- 4190 Social
5 Warning: NSF Fellowships are awarded only for study leading to research-based master's or doctoral degrees. Practice-oriented master's programs are not eligible for support in this program. PhD programs must be science-based.

6 Warning: Research with disease-related goals is not eligible for support by NSF. Applicants in this field will be judged ineligible if their Proposed Plan of Research has disease-related goals and/or is insufficiently focused on basic research questions.

7 Warning: Clinical and counseling psychology are generally not supported in this program; NSF Fellowship applicants in this field will be judged ineligible if their Proposed Plan of Research focuses on mental disease, abnormality or malfunction.

8 Warning: NSF Fellowship Applicants in these fields may be judged ineligible if the Proposed Plan of Research does not demonstrate a scientific approach.

Note: For further clarification of research areas supported by the NSF, see the National Science Foundation Guide to Programs (http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf0203).
4530 Animal Behavior
4531 Animal Science
0999 Biochemistry
1870 Biological Oceanography
1899 Biology
1299 Biophysics
1599 Botany (including Plant Physiology)
1820 Cell Biology
1860 Computational Biology
1840 Developmental Biology
1830 Ecology
4570 Entomology
9992 Environmental Sciences
1850 Evolutionary Biology
4590 Fish and Wildlife
0250 Forestry
2499 Genetics
0300 Horticulture
3293 Immunology
1874 Marine Biology
3299 Microbiology
1880 Molecular Biology
1829 Neurosciences
1890 Nutrition
2970 Pharmacology
3899 Physiology
1545 Plant Pathology
4540 Soil Science
1822 Structural Biology
3290 Virology
4699 Zoology
2299 Life Sciences, other (specify)