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news & opportunities

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE UT KNOXVILLE

Research Scholarship Creative Activity

Engagement title adds outreach responsibilities for vice chancellor

Vice Chancellor Brad Fenwick has an added dimension to his work as head of research on the UT Knoxville campus. Fenwick's full title is "vice chancellor for research and engagement." While the research role has a long history at UT, the "engagement" portfolio is new to the university.

As Fenwick explains it, engagement is a more proactive interpretation of the university's traditional outreach mission.

"The engagement approach involves a deeper and more interactive relationship between the university and the communities it serves," Fenwick said. "Interactions at this level help to ensure that university knowledge and student learning provide benefits to society that are more fully recognized and appreciated.

"That, in turn, improves the quality of learning and research."

Fenwick said that flagship research universities like UT Knoxville have unique capabilities to solve problems and enhance the quality of life for citizens of the state and the wider world.

"UTK has contributed and will increasingly contribute to many pressing community issues," he said -- issues including the quality of K-12 education, health and well-being, natural resources and the environment, legal advocacy, art education and appreciation, business development, energy security, and, overall, a well-educated and trained populace able to contribute to the region's competitiveness in the globally-based innovation economy.

"As a result, the public's appreciation for and support of UTK will increase, as will the quality of the education provided and the research accomplished by the university."

Fenwick identifies several engagement responsibilities at the level of vice chancellor:

- providing leadership in fostering productive partnerships with education, government, and nonprofit business organizations
- working with deans and faculty colleagues to increase participation in community-based research and learning
- providing linkages between programs within the university and across the state
- identifying and contributing to the success of opportunities in economic and community development, and
- raising and leveraging new resources from multiple sources that the university can strategically apply towards serving the public good.

New federal rules require registration of collaborators

Registration requirements for the federal Central Contractor Registration (www.ccr.gov) have been expanded to include not only proposers on federal solicitations but also collaborators and subcontractors, effective 5 Jan 2008.

The University of Tennessee is already registered with the CCR, which covers all UT proposers, but the new rule change also applies to collaborators on proposals. All organizations, including small businesses, must be registered with the CCR to participate in a UT proposal, with the exception of individual consultants.

The UT Office of Research recommends that UT proposers check with potential collaborators early in the proposal preparation process to be sure that their institution has an appropriate CCR registration. Collaborators should ensure that the CCR information matches its NSF FastLane registration information. The registration process takes approximately three business days to complete, and inclusion of an unregistered collaborator may cause delays in the funding process by the sponsoring agency.

For more information, contact Consuelo Brandeis (865-974-8394, cbrandei@utk.edu).

UTOR post offers consulting on proposal help

Assistance is available in the UT Office of Research for faculty preparing proposals in the humanities and social sciences.

Alan Rutenberg, UTOR director of proposal development, consults in the preparation of various proposals for residential and nonresidential fellowships, humanities research, books for university presses, National Endowment for the Humanities challenge grants, collaborative scholarship, scholarly editions, summer seminars and institutes, and digital humanities projects. He also offers a dissertation-to-book workshop.

Rutenberg helped develop the 2003 proposal that won UT the Marco NEH challenge grant. With his assistance, seven UT faculty received NEH fellowships between 2004 and 2006. Other awards have come from the American Council of Learned Societies, the Folger Library, and the American Antiquarian Society, among others. UT faculty have also received residential fellowships in humanities research at Stanford University, the University of Wisconsin, and Wellesley College.

Rutenberg holds an M.A. in English and a law degree from the University of Chicago. He can be reached at 974-8686 or arutenberg@utk.edu.

Upcoming Lectures In Humanities Research

24, 25 January 2008
Geoffrey Harpham, director of the National Humanities Center in North Carolina

3, 4 March 2008
Adam Wolfson, director, Division of Research at the National Endowment for the Humanities

SARIF equipment, summer GRA deadlines near

Applications are being accepted for two programs sponsored by the chancellor's Scholarly Activity and Research Incentive Funds, which support UT Knoxville faculty in research and scholarly pursuits.

The Equipment & Infrastructure Fund provides approximately $300,000 yearly to support purchases, upgrades and repairs of equipment and other infrastructure needs in support of the campus' research mission. Proposals are now being accepted for Fiscal 2009 (1 July 08 - 30 June 09). The five-page electronic proposal should include a statement of the research agenda and equipment need, an impact statement, a budget summary, and a required cost-sharing plan. From the UT Office of Research web page, go to "Help with Funding for Research/SARIF/Equipment and Infrastructure Fund" for specific details.

Deadline: **Noon, 12 March 08.**

The Graduate Research Assistantship fund provides a summer research assistantship worth $3,600 to a faculty member in support of a named graduate student working in support of the faculty member's research agenda. For limits and other details go to "Help with Funding for Research/ SARIF /Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) Fund" from the UTOR web page.

Deadline: **Noon, 27 February 08.**

Applications to both programs should be made electronically to Jane Taylor (tayloje@utk.edu, 974-0437), who can also provide additional information.

Dates set for UG research exhibition

The UT Office of Research will sponsor the 12th annual Exhibition of Undergraduate Research & Creative Achievement 2-4 April 2008 in the University Center Ballroom. The exhibition showcases research and creative activities done by currently enrolled undergraduates. Winners receive between $200 and $650 in awards. *Important dates:* Intent to participate form, 5 March 08; abstract, 13 Mar 08. Call Jane Taylor (tayloje@utk.edu, 974-0437), UTOR, 1534 White Ave., 37996-1529. Web link: "Office of Research/Quick Links/ EURCA."

Hesler Award Nominations

Nominations are being taken for the L.R. Hesler Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Service on the UT Knoxville campus. The award, established in 1982, honors L.R. Hesler, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and recognizes professors or associate professors who show a genuine interest in students and have made significant contributions to the campus in the spirit of the late dean. Suzy Garner (621 Andy Holt Tower, 974-2504, suzy.garner@tennessee.edu) is accepting nominations. Contact Garner or Mary Holtman-Reed (974-6507). The deadline is 8 Feb 08.

16 Jan 2008

NSF offers funding in STEM education, ethics, computing

The new year has brought a plentitude of funding opportunities from the National Science Foundation and other sources. Many of these solicitations have institutional limits that restrict the number of proposals the University of Tennessee (or its component parts) can submit. In order to plan for any needed internal competitions, the UT Office of Research is asking that faculty who are considering proposing to any of the programs below submit a statement of interest. That will allow the UTOR to schedule competitions only as needed.

Please e-mail Greg Reed (gdreed@utk.edu) and Bill Dockery (dockeryb@utk.edu) by 21 January 2008 with your expression of interest.

Special Note

Innovation through Institutional Integration (I^3)

Solicitations for some of the programs below have added Innovation through Institutional Integration (I^3)components have limitations on the number of submissions per institution. ITEST has the I^3 component, as do the Math and Science Partnership (MSP), the Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST) and HBCU Research Infra-structure for Science and Engineering (HBCU-RISE), as well as solicitations for Robert Noyce, RDE, and TCUP.

The University of Tennessee can submit only one I^3 proposal in only one of the six programs.

Important dates: Internal statement of interest, 21 Jan 08; final proposal to UTOR, 4 April 08.

Possible internal competitions

Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST)

ITEST supports the development , implementation, and testing of models that will increase student interest in and pursuit of careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and information and communication technology (ICT). The NSF will accept proposals in three project areas: (1) strategies, (2) scale-up, and (3) studies. Under the ITEST solicitation, NSF is also accepting proposals for Innovation through Institutional Integration (I^3) projects that provide creative linkages among a number of campus or neighboring NSF projects.

Important dates: Internal statement of interest, 21 Jan 08; NSF letter of intent, 15 Feb 2008; final proposal to UTOR: 5 April 08.

The ITEST solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08526/nsf08526.htm

Math and Science Partnership (MSP)

MSP provides a six types of awards aimed at researching and developing innovative partnerships to improve K-12 student achievement in mathematics and science. The University of Tennessee Knoxville can be the lead institution on only one of these types of awards. One of the six types is the I^3 program mentioned in the note below, and it carries more restrictive limits.

Important dates: Internal statement of interest, 21 Jan 08; NSF letter of intent, 18 Feb 08; final proposal to UTOR, 19 Mar 08.

The MSP solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08525/nsf08525.htm

Research in Disabilities Education (RDE)

The RDE program seeks to broaden the participation and achievement of people with disabilities in all STEM educational and professional fields. RDE has three program tracks, as well as an I^3 emphasis.

Important dates: Internal statement of interest, 21 Jan 08; final proposal to UTOR, 5 business days before the individual NSF deadlines listed in the submission.

RDE solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08527/nsf08527.htm

Centers of Research Excellence in Science & Technology HBCU Research Infrastructure for Science & Engineering (CREST & HBCU RISE)

CREST and HBCU-RISE programs support minority-serving and historically black colleges and universities, respectively, in developing and improving research and education facilities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The program includes an I^3 emphasis.

Important dates: Internal statement of interest, 21 Jan 08; NSF letter of intent, 5 Feb 08; final proposal to UTOR, 2 April 08.

The CREST & RISE solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08528/nsf08528.htm

Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program

The Noyce program seeks to encourage STEM majors and professionals to become K-12 mathematics and science teachers. It funds institutions to support students who commit to teaching in high-need school districts. UT may submit or be a part of only one proposal to the Noyce program.

Important dates: Internal statement of interest, 21 Jan 08; NSF letter of intent, 28 Feb 08; final proposal to UTOR, 3 April 08.

Noyce solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08532/nsf08532.htm?govDel=USNSF_25

Ethics Education in Science and Engineering (EESE)

EESE is accepting proposals for research and education projects to improve graduate ethics education in all of the fields of science and engineering supported by NSF, especially in interdisciplinary or inter-institutional contexts.

Important dates: Internal statement of interest: 21 Jan 08; final proposal to UTOR, 28 March 08.

The EESE solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08530/nsf08530.htm

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM)

NSF's PAESMEM program recognizes outstanding mentoring efforts that enhance the participation of women, minorities, persons with disabilities and other underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The University of Tennessee, as accredited, is limited to one nomination to the program.

Important date: Internal statement of interest, 21 Jan 08; full proposal to UTOR, 27 Feb 08.

PAESMEM solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5473

CISE Pathways to Revitalized Undergraduate Computing Education (CPATH)

In an effort to transform undergraduate computing education on a national scale, the National Science Foundation is soliciting proposals for its Pathways to Revitalized Undergraduate Computing Education (CPATH) program. which is supported through the NSF Computer & Information Science & Engineering directorate. The program supports three types of projects: 1. Community Building (CB) grants, 2. Conceptual Development & Planning (CDP) grants, and 3. Transformative Implementation (TI) grants. The University of Tennessee, as accredited, will be limited to participating in one submission each for CDP and TI proposals. The CB proposals have no institutional limits.

Important dates: Internal statement of interest, 21 Jan 08; final proposal to UTOR, 5 March 08.

The CPATH solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08516/nsf08516.htm

Other opportunities

Petascale Computing Resource Allocations (PRAC)

The Blue Waters petascale computing system funded by the NSF is to go online at the University of Illinois in 2011. PRAC is an invitation for research groups to propose large and complex computational projects to take advantage of the Blue Waters capacity.

Important date: Final proposal to UTOR, 25 March 08.

PRAC solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08529/nsf08529.htm

Networking Technology and Systems (NeTS)

The NSF NeTS program supports pioneering visions and transformative research agendas that explore the frontiers of networking and help pave the way for the next generation Internet. Proposals will be accepted in five areas: Networking at the Edges (NEDG), Network Ecosystems (NECO), Aware Networking (ANET), Exploratory Networking (XPLR), and Future Internet Design (FIND). The proposals can be (a) small, (b) team, or (c) planning and community-building activities.

Important date: Final proposal to UTOR, 25 March 08.

NeTS solicitation: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08524/nsf08524.htm

Experiments at High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) & Spallation Neutron Source (SNS)

Oak Ridge National Laboratory is seeking proposals for experi-ments at HFIR and SNS. The proposals should make use of any of the six HFIR and three SNS instruments available. The solicitation covers use of the instruments for March through August 2008. All proposals will be reviewed for feasibility, safety, and the potential for high-impact science.

Important date: Electronic submission closes at 11:59 ET, Monday 28 Jan 2008.

Website: http://neutrons.ornl.gov/ or http://neutrons.ornl.gov/users/user_news.shtml

Reminder: All electronic proposals are due to UTOR **five business days** before the agency deadline.

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