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Quest

Research, Scholarship, Creative Activity

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

http://research.utk.edu November 19, 2008

Purchasing offers acquisition guide for researchers

The UT Purchasing Office has issued a set of guidelines to help principal investigators understand their options when they need to acquire equipment or services.

The guidelines detail four options for purchasing equipment costing less than $5,000, two options for purchases between $5,000 and $25,000, and the process for purchasing items costing more than $25,000.

The Purchasing Office can offer assistance when PIs have found an alternate vendor whose price is less than the price in an already-existing contract.

See http://purchasing.tennessee.edu/ or call Purchasing at 865-974-3311.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Henry Louis Taylor Jr., founder of the Center of Urban Studies at the University of Buffalo, will present the 12th annual Billie Grace Goodrich Distinguished Lecture, "Reflections: Connecting the Academic Mission of the University to the Regeneration of Distressed Communities," on Nov. 20 at 5:00 p.m. in the UC Auditorium.

Interdisciplinary symposium, "The academic evolution and hybridization of literature and the natural sciences," a two-day event hosted by the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology Faculty Colloquy, Nov. 24–25, Black Cultural Center. For more info, e-mail sblackwe@utk.edu.

Beauvais Lyons, professor of art, will present the season's final Pre-Game Faculty Showcase, "'Fake Believe': Are Centaurs Real?" Lyons will discuss the Hokes Archives, a project that strives to initiate critical thinking among UT students. Saturday, Nov. 29 at 4:30 p.m. in the UC Ballroom.

All events are free and open to the public.

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE UT KNOXVILLE

Office of Research to provide interim support for research projects

The increasing competition for declining governmental dollars for research has prompted the Office of Research to create a "Bridge Funding" program. The program will provide interim support to continue externally funded research projects that have demonstrated a likelihood of continued funding pending resubmission. Bridge funding is not intended to substitute for outside research funding, but rather to provide limited, interim funding to an investigator who has applied for, but failed to receive, funding for ongoing well-established research.

Any full time faculty member who is a PI on a grant funded for at least three consecutive years by a national agency or organization with a bona fide scientific peer-review and whose application for continued support from that or another national funding agency has not been funded, shall be eligible for bridge funding for up to $50,000 from the Office of Research. Only grants and contracts that support a research project will be eligible for bridge funding. Grants that are primarily for a demonstration project, a training program, or a postdoctoral fellowship are ineligible.

Having repeatedly applied for funding is one of the major requirements for receiving bridge funding. Normally, the applicant should have submitted a competitive application during the last year of the extramural funding cycle. Eligible requests for review are restricted to proposals having an outstanding chance of obtaining funding in the next round of submission.

If funding runs out without a renewal application for continued funding having been submitted and scored, then the PI is not eligible for bridge funding. Furthermore, the faculty member must agree to continue reapplying for extramural funding in the same research area. Awards may not cover budget reductions in existing awards or cost overruns from previous awards.

Details on project specifications, reimbursement policy, and submission procedures: http://research.utk.edu/funding/bridge.shtml

Vice chancellor holds meeting to introduce budget process for centers, institutes

Vice Chancellor Brad Fenwick has announced a budgeting process that will let existing research centers and institutes, as well as newly formed centers, compete in an open, transparent, and productivity-based process to seek support from the university's limited research resources.

"Emerging centers associated with a defined group of faculty working in defined areas of inquiry are also invited to participate," Fenwick said.

The new process will be explained in an informational meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, November 21, in the Shiloh Room at the University Center.

Detailed information: http://research.utk.edu/funding/oru.shtml

Nominations for Chancellor's Awards

The nominating process has opened for the faculty awards the chancellor of UT Knoxville makes at the yearly Chancellor's Honors Banquet. Greg Reed, associate vice chancellor for research, is soliciting 2009 nominations for

- the Professional Promise in Research and Creative Achievement Awards, which honor assistant or associate professors who have no more than 10 years professional experience beyond their terminal degree; and
- the Research and Creative Achievement Awards, which recognize tenured faculty with more than 10 years of professional experience.

The awards are intended to recognize national or international achievement among faculty and to stimulate research and creative achievement among faculty at all levels. Four faculty in each category will be honored.

Winners of the awards will receive a certificate and a $3,000 award at the banquet on April 8, 2009.

Small UT Knoxville departments or budgetary units are eligible to nominate one person in each category. Larger departments with 20 or more faculty members can submit two nominations.

Deadline: January 30, 2009, 12:00 noon

Complete requirements for nominations and appropriate forms for Research and Creative Achievement Awards: http://research.utk.edu/funding/carca.shtml

Complete requirements for nominations and appropriate forms for Professional Promise in Research and Creative Achievement Awards: http://research.utk.edu/funding/cappirca.shtml

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Cancer Research Grant Program

The Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation is accepting applications for innovative grants for translational research in ovarian, uterine, breast, or cervical cancer. At least eight grants of up to $100,000 will be awarded for a two-year project.

Submission limits: Only one application will be accepted from each eligible institution.

Deadlines: Internal statement of intent, December 1, 2008; proposal to UTOR, February 9, 2009, 8 a.m.

More information: www.mkacf.org/Pages/CancerGrantProgram.aspx

William A. Klinger Memorial Award

The Associated General Contractors of America is soliciting proposals for applied research that provides technological and managerial advancements with applications that are specific to the construction industry and that explore potential remedies for existing and projected escalating materials costs for general contractors.

Submission limits: UT can submit only one proposal.

Deadline: Proposal to UTOR, December 2, 2008, 8 a.m.

More information: www.agc.org/cs/about_agc/recognition_programs/agc_foundation_awards

Studying Complex Systems—21st Century Science Collaborative Activity

The James S. McDonnell Foundation's Complex Systems program supports scholarship and research on the development of theoretical and mathematical tools that can be applied to the study of complex, nonlinear systems. Research funded by this program will likely be in biology, biodiversity, climate, demography, epidemiology, and similar fields. The focus is on the development and application of theoretical models.

Deadline: Proposals accepted continuously.

More information: www.jsmf.org/programs/cs/

School-Based Interventions to Prevent Obesity

The National Institutes of Health is sponsoring a program to form partnerships between academic institutions and school systems in order to develop and implement controlled, school-based strategies designed to reduce the prevalence of obesity in childhood and evaluate different intervention strategies.

Deadline: Complete proposal to UTOR, January 30, 2009, 8 a.m. NOTE: A second round of proposals is due June 5, 2009.

More information: http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-180.html

Environment and Sustainability Grants

The Compton Foundation is soliciting proposals that advance ecologically healthy, economically sustainable, and socially just visions for the management of water in the western United States, reduce the country's contribution to global climate change, and promote community-based strategies to support healthy ecosystems and thriving rural communities. While some of the programs are prioritized around states in the American West, the foundation also funds projects of national significance.

Deadlines: March 7 and September 7, 2009

More information: www.comptonfoundation.org/environment.html

Next Generation Design Competition

Metropolis Magazine's competition promotes activism, social involvement, and entrepreneurship in young designers. Project must embody the core values of good design while forwarding thinking on what designers can accomplish. The 2009 competition seeks entries that address rising energy costs.

Deadline: January 30, 2009

More information: www.metropolismag.com/nextgen/

Environmental Education Grants Program

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) solicits Environmental Education Grant proposals to support environmental education projects that promote environmental stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers, and citizens. This grant program provides financial support for innovative projects that design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques.

Deadline: December 18, 2008

More information: www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html

National Science Foundation

Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE)

NOTE: May require internal competition

The NSF PIRE program seeks to encourage a high level of international engagement in the U.S. science and engineering community by supporting innovative international research and education collaborations. The program will enable U.S. scientists and engineers to establish collaborative relationships with international colleagues in order to advance new knowledge and discoveries at the frontiers of science and engineering and to promote the development of a diverse, globally-engaged U.S. scientific and engineering workforce.

NOTE: The solicitation specifically encourages preproposals that go "beyond the level of a PI's research group," among other desirable characteristics.

Submission limits: UT as accredited may submit no more than three preliminary proposals. Full proposals will be by invitation only.

Deadlines:
Internal notification of interest: December1, 2008
Completed preliminary proposal to UTOR: February 20, 2009

ADVANCE—Increasing the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers

NOTE: May require internal competition

The goal of the ADVANCE program is to develop systemic approaches to increase the representation and advancement of women in academic science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers, thereby contributing to the development of a more diverse science and engineering workforce. The program supports three types of project: (1) Institutional Transformation (IT), (2) Institutional Transformation Catalyst (IT Catalyst), and (3) Partnerships for Adaptation, Implementation, and Dissemination (PAID).

Submission limits: UT as accredited may submit either one IT proposal or one IT Catalyst proposal. There are no institutional limits on the number of PAID proposals that can be submitted.

Deadlines:
PAID letter of intent to NSF: January 20, 2009
Full proposal to UTOR: February 18, 2009
IT and IT-Catalyst statement of intent to UTOR: March 2, 2009; competition will be announced if necessary.
Letter of intent to NSF: August 4, 2009
Full proposal to UTOR: November 6, 2009

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