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University of Tennessee Office of Research

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Five new proposal development courses offered in spring

Five new courses on proposal development will be offered by the Office of Research in spring 2010 for UT faculty seeking to begin or increase their involvement in sponsored programs.

The courses include:

- NSF Career and BRIGE Awards
- Building the NIH Grant Proposal
- Building the NSF Grant Proposal
- Finding Funding

The five courses offered in fall 2009 will also be available in the spring semester, including:

- Writing Successful Grants, Parts 1 & 2
- Finding Funding

Building the NIH Grant Proposal

Contact Robert Porter (reporter@utk.edu) with specific questions.

Details: http://research.utk.edu/forms_docs/carca_2010.pdf

Nominees open for two Chancellor's Awards in 2010

The Office of Research is soliciting nominations for the Chancellor's Awards for Professional Promise in Research and Creative Achievement and the Chancellor's Awards for Research and Creative Achievement. Four faculty will be selected for each award, and each honoree will receive a certificate of achievement and a $3,000 award.

The Professional Promise awards recognize exceptionally talented junior faculty members for their professional potential in research and creative achievement. Eligibility is limited to tenured or tenure-track faculty members at the assistant or associate professor rank who by the end of 2009-2010 academic year have 10 years professional experience beyond their terminal degree. Nominees must have a minimum of three years of service on the faculty of the University of Tennessee. An individual may only receive this award once.

The Achievement awards recognize tenured faculty members who have received national and/or international recognition in their field and who have more than 10 years of professional experience beyond their terminal degree. Candidates nominated previously for the Achievement awards can be nominated, but faculty who received the award between spring 1998 and spring 2009 are ineligible for the 2010 competition. Distinguished Scientists and Chairs of Excellence are not eligible for nomination.

Each small UT academic department or budgetary unit at Knoxville may submit the name and credentials of one nominee for each category of award. Larger departments (20 or more faculty members) may submit two nominations for each category.

Awards will be announced at the Chancellor's Honors Banquet to be held on 7 April 2010.

Key date: 12 February and abstracts must be in by 5 March to Jane Taylor (taylorje@utk.edu, 865-974-0437) in the Office of Research.

Details: http://research.utk.edu/eurca/

NFU report: Earned doctorates grew by 1.4% in ‘08

U.S. academic institutions awarded 48,802 research doctorates degrees in 2008, the sixth consecutive annual increase in U.S. doctoral awards and the highest number ever reported by the National Science Foundation's Survey of Earned Doctorates.

The total number of doctorates increased 1.4 percent over 2007's total of 47,897 doctorates, which was the largest annual increase of the last six years, according to the NSF's Science Resources Statistics division.

The Survey of Earned Doctorates is a census of all individuals who received a doctoral degree from a U.S. academic institution in a given academic year. The 2008 census covers individuals who earned doctorates in the academic year beginning July 1, 2007, and ending June 30, 2008. Specifically, 32,827 science and engineering (S&E) doctorates were awarded in 2008, an increase of 3.2 percent over 2007, and a 20.4 percent increase since 1998.

Similarly, doctorates awarded in computer science increased 7.9 percent over 2007 and had the largest rate of increase among science fields during the past decade, nearly doubling from 1998 to 2008.

At the other end of the spectrum, the number of doctorates awarded in non-S&E fields fell to 15,975 in 2008, 2.1 percent below the 2007 total but up 4 percent over 1998. The number of doctorates awarded in education fields was up 2.1 percent, but doctorates declined in health 1.6 percent, humanities 7.1 percent, and professional fields 2.9 percent in 2008.

The proportion of temporary visa holders among doctorate recipients continues its upward trend, increasing from 23.3 percent in 1998 to 33.1 percent in 2008. The rate at which temporary resident doctorate recipients report definitive post-graduation commitments to remain in the United States is also increasing. In 1998, 68.4 percent of temporary resident doctorate recipients report definitive commitments for employment or postdoctoral training reported an intention to remain in the U.S. upon graduating; this proportion increased to 78.2 percent in 2008.


State Department to fund institutes for international students

The U.S. Department of State is soliciting proposals for the design and implementation of approximately 15 institutes that will bring student leaders from Southeast Asia and the Middle East to provide groups of highly motivated undergraduates with in-depth seminars on global environmental issues, new media, religious pluralism, social entrepreneurship, and women's leadership.

Participants in the program, known as the Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders, will be highly motivated undergraduate students from Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern universities, and other institutions of higher education in selected countries overseas who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. Their major fields of study will be varied and will include the sciences, social sciences, humanities, education, and business. All participants will have a good knowledge of English and will have demonstrated interest in the institution's program. Every effort will be made to select a balanced mix of male and female participants, and to recruit participants who are from non-elite or underprivileged backgrounds, from both rural and urban areas, and have had little or no prior experience in the United States or elsewhere outside of their home country.

Participants will be identified and nominated by the U.S. Embassies and Consulates and the Fulbright Commissions with final selection made by State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Each institute will host up to 20 participants, for a total of approximately 300 students. Approximately $3.1 million will be distributed to up to five awards, depending on the availability of funds in FY 2010. There are constraints or conditions for funding levels for organizations with less than four years experience in conducting similar exchange programs.

LIMITED SUBMISSION: The University of Tennessee can submit no more than one proposal under this solicitation. Notification of interest required by 8 December 2009.

Key date: 14 January 2010.

NOTE: Applicants should submit paper copies of the proposal instead of using grants.gov.

Details: http://exchanges.state.gov/grants/open2.html

NOTICE: Phi Beta Kappa members sought

Jeff Kovac, president of the UT Knoxville chapter of Phi Beta Kappa Society, is collecting names of all faculty and staff who are members of the society. Plans include developing a new web site for the chapter that will include a roster of all faculty and staff members and their department or unit. An online form for self-identification is available at http://www.utk.edu/go/29. Contact Kovac (jkovac@utk.edu) with questions.
Opportunities

The Office of Research presents selected opportunities of potential interest to UT Knoxville faculty. Due to space limitations, the listing cannot be complete but indicates the number and breadth of possible support for research and scholarship. The Office of Research can help faculty develop strategies for identifying funding sources for their research agenda. Contact the office at 865-974-3466.

Senior Scholar in Aging

The Ellison Medical Foundation Senior Scholar program in Aging supports established investigators working at institutions in the U.S. to conduct research in the basic biological sciences relevant to understanding lifespan development processes and age-related diseases and disabilities. The award is intended to provide significant support to established investigators in order to allow the development of new, creative research programs by investigators who may not currently be conducting aging research or who may wish to develop new research programs in aging. The foundation seeks to stimulate new research that has rigorous scientific foundations but may not be currently funded adequately because of perceived novelty or high risk, or because it is from an area where traditional research interests absorb most funding. Senior Scholar awards provide funding up to $300,000 per year for a four-year period.

Specific areas of interest include, but are not limited to: structural biology, molecular genetics, studies with model systems ranging from lower eukaryotes to humans, inquiries testing the relevance of simpler models to human aging, genetic epidemiology of aging (candidate longevity genes), aging in the immune system, host defense molecules in aging systems, mechanisms of free radical induced aging, mechanisms of aging in various differentiated cell populations, gene/environment and gene/gene interactions, integrative physiology, and new approaches to age-modulated disease mechanisms.

Key date: 4 March 2010, letter of intent submitted to Ellison Medical Foundation.
Details: http://www.ellisonfoundation.org/adsp.jsp?key=12aging_senior_prc&show=100

Boeing Welllver Faculty Fellowship Program

Through its Welllver Faculty Fellowship Program, the Boeing Company seeks to expose a small number of competitively selected professors from U.S. and international universities to key elements and the business realities of industry by enabling them to "look over the shoulder" of working professionals at several levels of the technical, business, and management career paths. They will leave the program with an understanding of Boeing's business including its research needs, with an improved understanding of career paths. They will leave the program with an understanding of Boeing's business including its research needs, with an improved understanding of career paths. They will leave the program with an understanding of Boeing's business including its research needs, with an improved understanding of career paths.

The objectives of the program are (1) to provide faculty with a better understanding of the practical industry application of engineering, manufacturing, information technology, and business skills; (2) to help faculty enhance the content of undergraduate education in ways that will better prepare tomorrow's graduates for careers in a global environment; and (3) to have faculty observe the Boeing environments, processes, and procedures. "Fresh perspectives." Faculty will use their expertise to help identify areas for possible improvements and document their observations at Boeing.

Key dates: 31 December 2009, submission of application; 14 June–6 August 2010, eight-week program.
Details: http://www.boeing.com/educationrelations/facultyfellowship/index.html

HP Labs Innovation Research Program

The Hewlett-Packard Co. is seeking opportunities for breakthrough collaborative research between HP and colleges, universities, and institutes internationally. Community of Science reports that the research will take place in five broad areas:

-- Information explosion: Acquiring, analyzing, and delivering the right information to individuals and businesses so they can act on it.

-- Dynamic cloud services: Developing web platforms and cloud services that are dynamically personalized based on location, preferences, calendar, and context.

-- Content transformation: Enabling the fluid transformation of content from analog to digital, from device to device, and from digital content to physical products.

-- Intelligent infrastructure: Designing smarter, more secure computing devices, networks, and architectures that work together to connect individuals and businesses to rich, dynamic content, and services.

-- Sustainability: Creating technologies, IT infrastructure, and new business models for the low-carbon economy that save money and leave a lighter footprint on the world.

Details: http://www.hpl.hp.com/open_innovation/irp/