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University of Tennessee Office of Research

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Chancellor creates award to honor interdisciplinary success

The Office of Research is soliciting nominations for the 2012 Success in Multidisciplinary Research Award. One award of $5,000 will be made to a successful multidisciplinary research team at the Chancellor’s Honor’s Banquet. Eligible nominees will be multidisciplinary research teams composed of faculty from one or more disciplines who have succeeded in gaining major external resources and recognition for their multidisciplinary research. Nominees must have a minimum of three years of service on the faculty of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Each academic department or budgetary unit, including research centers, can nominate one team. The awards committee of the Research Council will judge the entries based on a nomination cover sheet and related documents.

Key date: February 7, 2012 at 12:00 noon – submission to Research Awards Committee c/o Jane Taylor, Blount Hall/1534 White Avenue, Campus 1529

Details: http://research.utk.edu/ca/multi.shtml

Chancellor to recognize faculty academic outreach

Nominations are being accepted for the Chancellor’s Academic Outreach Award, which recognizes extraordinary contributions to the public that occur as an outgrowth of academic pursuits by UT faculty as a part of the university’s mission. The award is based on the demonstrated excellence of the public outreach arising from the nominee’s academic expertise. A letter of nomination must come from the faculty member’s department head or immediate supervisor. The award will be presented at the Chancellor’s Awards Banquet, and the honoree will be sponsored to present the outreach work at the annual National Outreach Scholarship Conference.

Key dates: February 10, 2012 – submission of nomination packet to Carol Myers (cmyers@utk.edu)

April 9, 2012 – Chancellor’s Honors Banquet

Details: http://chancellor.utk.edu/honorsbanquet/outreach.shtml

Book drive, reception benefit L&N Academy

The UT Office of Research is sponsoring a book drive for the benefit of the library at Knox County’s STEM Academy at the L&N train station building. Donations of books – especially those directly related to science, technology, engineering, and math – are solicited. The L&N library is not able to accept magazines or journal runs at this time.

Books in boxes may be dropped off at the UT O’Connor building. Donations numbered 4, 5, and 6 are significant for giving rebudgeting guidance for competing and noncompeting awards.

Details: http://research.utk.edu/pd/bookdrive.shtml

NIH gives direction on lowering salary cap

The National Institutes of Health has issued guidance related to the new Executive Level II salary limitation. Effective December 23, 2011, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112-74) restricts the amount of direct salary paid in awards to Executive Level II of the Federal Executive Pay scale, which is capped at $179,700. Previously the cap was equal to Executive Level I – $199,700. In the NIH document, Frequently Asked Questions numbered 4, 5, and 6 are significant for giving rebudgeting guidance for competing and noncompeting awards.


Campus chemical inventories due March 1

In order to meet regulatory requirements, the University of Tennessee’s Knoxville campus must conduct a periodic inventory of hazardous chemicals used or stored on campus.

Mark Smith, director of Environmental Health and Safety, is calling on all UT Knoxville departments that use or store chemicals to complete the inventory by March 1. He urges departmental personnel to inspect chemical supplies for any that

- are abandoned or unwanted
- have faded, missing, or illegible labels
- are past their expiration dates
- are of questionable purity
- have cracked or bulging containers or lids
- are deteriorating or otherwise unusable

All compressed-gas cylinders, including lecture bottles, should be listed in the inventory for the purposes of fire department safety.

An Excel template with detailed instructions on completing an inventory is available; it uploads directly into the office database. Departments that have moved or that have no change in last year’s inventory should contact Environmental Health and Safety.

Key date: Thursday, March 1, 2012, submission of completed inventory

Contact: Pam Koontz (pkkoontz@utk.edu), 974-5084

Details: http://web.utk.edu/~ehs/

Book info sought for annual faculty author reception

The Office of Research and the University Libraries will host a reception honoring faculty book authors on Thursday, March 29, 2012, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Jack Rees Galleria of Hodges Library. Event sponsors seek the names of all faculty members who have published scholarly monographs in 2011 or 2012. Authors will be invited to the reception and their books will be on display.

Please send book information, including faculty author name and book title to the Dean of Libraries Office in care of Patty Boling (boling00@utk.edu).

Key dates: February 29, 2012 – submission of author information

March 29, 3:30-4:30 p.m. – reception

Students eligible for DOE geothermal competition

Graduate and undergraduate students in science, engineering or business disciplines are invited to participate in the U.S. Department of Energy’s 2012 Geothermal Student Competition. The competition requires that entrants conduct a professional-quality assessment of the Snake River Plain site in Idaho, using innovative exploration technologies from geophysics, geochemistry, remote sensing, and geology.

Teams of up to four students and a faculty mentor/coach must submit an application detailing a project plan. The top 10 competitive applicants will receive a $10,000 stipend to defray expenses as they prepare a technical paper and presentation for the competition judges.

The DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is sponsoring the competition through the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

Key date: February 10, 2012 – application due

Key Campus Dates at a Glance

Summary of upcoming key dates in this and recent newsletters:

February 3

Submission of EUReCA signed forms

February 6

RSVP for L&N reception

February 7

Registration as STEM mentor, Knox County Schools

February 8

Chancellor’s Interdisciplinary Success Award

February 10

Chancellor’s Academic Outreach Award

February 24

CURRENT undergraduate research applications

Student Geothermal Competition deadline

February 25

Electronic applications for summer GRAs

February 26

Registration for Atlanta Census Research Data Center

February 27

Electronic submission of EUReCA abstracts

Electronic submission of applications for UTK undergraduate internships

February 29

Abstract deadline for Appalachian Student Research Forum

March 1

Submission of information about faculty authorship

DOD workplace violence preapplication

Chemical inventories due
January issue of funding newsletter is online

The January 2012 issue of Research Development & Grant-Writing Newsletter (Vol. 2, No. 5) is available on the Office of Research website, showcasing the following features and columns:

- NSF Math/Science Partnership Webinar Report
- Writing a Successful Project Management Plan
- Writing Shared Use Infrastructure Grants
- NIH Changes: NCRR Dissolved, NCATS Created
- Funding Grad Students and Postdocs
- Research Grant Writing Web Resources
- Educational Grant Writing Web Resources
- Agency Research News
- Agency Reports, Workshops & Roadmaps
- New Funding Opportunities
- About Academic Research Funding Strategies

Errata: Correction to last month’s MRI article

NOTE: The newsletter is proprietary to Academic Research Funding Strategies LLC. The Office of Research subscription requires faculty and staff to use their net ID and login. The login process does not support all browsers.

Details: http://research.utk.edu/news/rdw.shtml

Census data center offers talk on immigration turnaround

The Atlanta Census Research Data Center is sponsoring a seminar on “The Great Immigration Turnaround: New Facts and Old Rhetoric” on Wednesday, February 22, 2012, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. A reception will follow the presentation.

Dowell Myers, a professor in the School of Policy, Planning, and Development at the University of Southern California is the presenter. Registration is required.

Key date: February 17, 2012 – registration deadline

Details: http://frb.us2.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_8i8o6Wyptkj1QIk

NOTE: A link to the monthly newsletter of the Atlanta Census Research Data Center is available on the Office of Research web site.

Details: http://research.utk.edu/ or directly at http://aysps.gsu.edu/acrdc/newsletters.html

Research forum seeks student research abstracts

The Appalachian Student Research Forum is soliciting abstracts for presentations at the forum, which is scheduled for April 4-5, 2012, in the Centre at Millennium Park in Johnson City, Tennessee.

The Appalachian Student Research Forum is a regional competition which allows participants to present research in a formal setting. Undergraduates, graduate students, medical students, postdocs, medical residents, and fellows from universities and college across the Appalachian region are eligible to submit abstracts for poster presentations and all except undergraduates can submit abstracts for oral presentations.

Key dates: February 27, 2012 – deadline for submission of abstract for oral presentation
March 14, 2012 – deadline for submission of abstract for poster presentation

Science Forum Programs for February 2012

- February 3 - “Neutrons for Biology and Bioenergy,” Dr. Flora Meilleur, assistant professor of biochemistry at North Carolina State University & ORNL
- February 10 - “Apps for Autism,” Dr. David F. Cihak, UT associate professor of education
- February 17 - “This Most Uncivilized War – Reenacting Civil War History in the Classroom,” Mark Blevins, history teacher and basketball coach at Bearden High School

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

February 2012 Interdisciplinary Seminars at NIMBioS

- February 9 - Rosemary Gillespie, Environmental Science, University of California, Berkeley. “Community assembly across an island chronology” - Darwin Day event
- February 28 - Russell Lande, Natural Sciences, Imperial College London, “Adaptation to an extraordinary environment by evolution of phenotypic plasticity and genetic assimilation”

Details: http://nimbios.org/announcements/seminar_calendar.html

TN-SCORE has faculty, undergraduate research opportunities

The Tennessee Solar Conversion and Storage using Outreach, Research, and Education (TN-SCORE) is offering up to three research opportunity awards for full-time college students and university faculty members. The awards include a $12,500 stipend to the principal investigators and a $7,500 startup ad to the home department of the PI.

TN-SCORE will also sponsor at least 12 research experiences for undergraduates across Tennessee in summer 2012. The REUs allow undergraduates to participate in research at laboratories across the state.

Faculty online application: https://server.ilisurveys.com/fmi/new/cgi?-db=IL-APPLICATION-DATABASE-TNSCORE-ROA&-loadframes

Undergraduate online application: http://www.tnepscor.org/programs/recu.aspx

Details: http://www.tnepscor.org/

DOD seeks research on workplace violence in the military

The U.S. Department of Defense has announced a solicitation for research on “Workplace Violence in the Military.” Approximately $8 million is available for research through the Joint Program Committee for Military Operational Medicine.

The primary focus of the research is behavioral-based predictors of potential targeted acts of violence in the workplace, that is, deliberate and planned violent acts toward a specific target or set of targets. The results are expected to yield data and information that will be valuable to civilian authorities and mental health professionals as they develop policies and protocols to address an increasingly violent society.

Key date: February 27, 2012 at 5 p.m. Eastern time – submission deadline for preapplication

Details: http://www.grants.gov (search for CFDA number 12.420)

NSF Dear Colleague Letter promotes broadening STEM participation

The National Science Foundation has issued a Dear Colleague Letter concerned with the “Science of Broadening Participation,” which involves using cognitive, behavioral, social, and economic sciences to shape approaches to broadening STEM capabilities and competitive advantages. SBP involves the development and testing of theories aimed at discovering and understanding causality, components, and contingencies for social interactions and behavioral processes involved in increasing involvement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines.

SBP proposals can be submitted to appropriate programs in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate.


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Undergraduate online application: http://www.tnepscor.org/programs/recu.aspx

Details: http://www.tnepscor.org/

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