Competition for CSULB Applications to NSF-Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program

Project Description:

The MRI program accepts proposals for the acquisition or development of research instrumentation that is, in general, too costly for support through other NSF programs. MRI encourages the development and acquisition of research instrumentation for shared inter- and/or intra-organizational use. This program especially seeks to improve the quality and expand the scope of research and research training in science and engineering, by providing shared instrumentation that fosters the integration of research and education in research-intensive learning environments. Proposals may be for a single instrument or a system of related instruments that share a common or specific research focus. NSF is also stimulating the development of the next generation of research instrumentation by encouraging organizations to submit proposals for instrument development.

Eligibility:

The number of MRI proposals CSULB can submit for instrument acquisition is limited to two, but an additional proposal can be submitted for instrument development. For this reason we will convene an ad hoc committee to review the applications internally and to select the proposals to be forwarded to NSF.

Website: The NSF-MRI program solicitation website provides detailed proposal preparation and submission instructions, etc. Guidelines can be found at: NSF-Major Research Instrumentation Program Solicitation

Internal Competition Application Instructions:

STEP 1:

Notice of intent: Submit a notice of intent to submit to the ORSP by Friday 18th October. (http://www.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/research/our/information/forms/intent/). Please make sure that you indicate that the proposal is for NSF MRI ACQUISITION in “Funding Source” field.

STEP 2:

Applications for internal review: Submit your application for the internal competition to the ORSP by Friday 8th November 2013. Include the following information in your application:
1. Prepare applications in 12-point font, single-spaced, 0.5” margins.

2. Applications should include:

- Cover page with proposal title, full contact information (College, Dept, phone, email) for the PI.
- Declaration of whether the proposal is for instrument acquisition or development.
- 1-2 page proposal description that addresses the MRI program goals. NSF preferentially funds proposals that demonstrate notable prior NSF funding of the PI and team, relevance of the instrument to a broad cluster of NSF funded faculty and a good sustainable management plan. The pre-proposal narrative should therefore describe the need for the instrumentation related to programmatic impact and should address the availability and accessibility of the technology at other campuses/sites. It should also describe how the instrument will be supported beyond the warranty period as well as any infrastructural requirements or modifications necessary for instrument installation or access.
- 1-2 page CV describing the qualifications of PI and any co-PI's that relate to the competitiveness of the proposal.

3. Submit your preproposal application as an email attachment to Nora Momoli in the ORSP by 4:30 pm, Friday 8th November, 2013 with NSF-MRI-PI’s name in the subject line of the email message.

STEP 3:

Internal review of submitted preproposals will be completed by a committee composed of the Deans or delegated representatives of the respective Colleges seeking funding. The PI’s will be informed of the committee’s decision by November 22nd 2013.

STEP 4:

Undergo internal clearance through Cayuse and prepare and submit proposal through NSF Fastlane. The NSF proposal deadline is 5 pm PT, Thursday January 23rd January 2013. If you have any questions about this procedure, please contact Zed Mason (562) 985-8854 or email zedmason@csulb.edu.

Deadlines:

- Notice of intent due to ORSP by 18th October 2013.
- Preproposal applications for internal review due 4.30 pm, 8th November 2013 to Nora Momoli ORSP.
- Applicants notified of committee’s decision by November 22nd 2013.
- Completed submission to NSF through Fastlane. Deadline Thursday January 23rd 2014.