Rutgers SciWomen: Join in the Discovery

Call for Proposals for NSF-supported Life Cycle Grants
RU FAIR ADVANCE Cycle III: Deadline January 31, 2011

RU FAIR NSF ADVANCE Life Cycle Grants are a funding opportunity for faculty at Rutgers University

What is RU FAIR ADVANCE?

The Rutgers University Office for the Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics (SciWomen) has been awarded a five-year Institutional Transformation grant for $3.67 million dollars from the ADVANCE program of the National Science Foundation (NSF). The grant, entitled Rutgers University for Faculty Advancement and Institutional Re-Imagination (RU FAIR), runs from September 1, 2008 - August 31, 2013 and serves the Camden, Newark, and New Brunswick campuses of Rutgers University. The overall goal of the RU FAIR initiative is to remove barriers to recruitment and retention of women faculty, to advocate for greater diversity in senior leadership positions, and to provide higher visibility to the achievements of Rutgers’ women faculty in science, social science, engineering, and mathematics (SEM) disciplines.

What are Life Cycle Grants?

Among the programs supported by RU FAIR ADVANCE are Life-Cycle grants. These grants are available to faculty (women and men) in NSF-supported academic disciplines at Rutgers University who are at critical junctures in their professional careers and facing threats to research productivity because of personal life events. The award of these funds is intended to ensure that the pace of research does not diminish, and that scientists facing personal or family transitions can continue their research activities even when their own research or teaching time is seriously limited due to family or life transitions.

How do Life Cycle grants support faculty?

These grants are meant to be flexible, and faculty may apply for varying amounts and academic purposes. The overall goal is to assist faculty members in maintaining productivity or meeting key professional goals or deadlines during and subsequent to periods of increased personal demand that coincide with critical career junctures or events.

Details for Applicants

RU FAIR ADVANCE Life-Cycle grants are open to all Rutgers’ faculty, women and men, in NSF-supported disciplines, on all three campuses (see below or refer to http://www.umbc.edu/promise/pages/NSF%20supported%20fields.htm for a complete list). Grant awards are anticipated to range in amount from $500 to $5,000, with the expectation of awarding six to ten grants per cycle. Proposals may be approved for funding, but the requested budget may be revised in accordance with University and NSF policies and available funds. The current Life-Cycle-grant awards cycle will run from April 1, 2011 – February 28, 2012. To qualify, a faculty member must be facing (or have faced) an unexpected or complicated personal demand on time that is negatively impacting productivity or the ability to pursue activities that are pertinent to continued career advancement.
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Life-Cycle grants will be administered through the RU FAIR ADVANCE program at Rutgers University. Applications will be reviewed by the Life-Cycle grants committee and selected experts, as needed, with confidentiality of life-cycle applicants maintained as secure.

The support may be used for up to one year for a number of purposes such as release time, research support (including temporary technical support to maintain or complete essential experiments), conference travel (domestic only), teaching support, temporary administrative assistant, timely completion of a paper, preliminary data for a grant, and temporary assistance with duties related to teaching to help free up time for research.

Because critical life events are not anticipated and cannot, in many cases, be planned for in advance, deadlines for submission of applications will occur each semester and possibly in the summer. If your situation changes after you have been awarded a life cycle grant, the RU FAIR Life-Cycle grants committee will re-evaluate your award and reserves the right to reduce or increase it to an amount appropriate to the new situation.

Examples of Life Events/Transitions

Life events/transitions may include, but are not limited to:
- Personal Illness or Disability
- Complications associated with childbirth or adoption
- Events involving spouse, parent, and/or child care (illness, death)
- Balancing personal and professional lives
- Combination of major life events

Examples of Financial Support

- Research support (including temporary technical support to maintain or complete essential experiments), Conference travel (domestic only)
- Teaching support
- Temporary administrative assistant (to assist with tasks such as timely completion of a paper, preliminary data for a grant, and temporary assistance with duties related to teaching to help free up time for research).

About Rutgers RU FAIR / NSF ADVANCE

The RU FAIR grant supports five major initiatives to increase the participation and advancement of faculty women in science, engineering, and mathematics on all three Rutgers campuses. The five initiatives are:

- **The Recruitment and Retention Initiative**: Seeks to increase the number of women, especially minority women, on the Rutgers SEM faculty.
- **The Communication Initiative**: Focuses on communications across campuses, centers, and departments.
- **The Networking and Liaison Initiative**: Seeks to build collaborations between Rutgers SEM faculty and the Rutgers Institute for Women’s Leadership (IWL) through such
mechanisms as interdisciplinary mini-grants.

• *The Visibility Initiative*: Promotes Rutgers women SEM faculty through expanded faculty profiles and personal stories on the SciWomen website, sponsorship of a lecture series of prominent women faculty, targeted nominations of distinguished faculty members and outstanding postdoctoral associates for awards, and solicitations of press coverage for Rutgers search.

• *The Work/Life Balance and Family Initiative*: Seeks to bolster the resources available for dual-care families and for families with children.

The full text of the RU FAIR/NSF ADVANCE proposal can be found on the RU FAIR website at [http://sciencewomen.rutgers.edu/](http://sciencewomen.rutgers.edu/)

### The Application Process

The text of the proposal should be about three double-spaced pages or less and address four main points:

- Why this is a critical career juncture?
- What is the life event you are experiencing and how has it affected your research/teaching progress?
- How will the requested funds help you through the crisis and enhance your research and/or teaching?
- What are the costs/consequences of not receiving the funding?

The narrative should include details for how the proposed plan will help meet RU FAIR/NSF ADVANCE objectives that specifically relate to women faculty in SEM fields, and/or a description of how it will foster interdisciplinary activities and collaborations. Where appropriate, provide citations to the literature.

In addition, please submit a current *curriculum vitae* and funding record (current and pending), a proposed budget, and a budget justification. The c.v., budget, and budget justification are in addition to the narrative section and not part of the recommended page limit. Please use the template from the Rutgers Office of Research and Sponsored Programs [http://orsp.rutgers.edu/](http://orsp.rutgers.edu/) for the proposed budget. It is not necessary to account for Facilities and Administrative costs (F&A). A letter of support from your department chair is encouraged, but not required. Proposals should be submitted in pdf or doc format online to sciwomen@rci.rutgers.edu by January 31, 2011. You are strongly encouraged to talk with RU FAIR ADVANCE Director, Dr. Doreen Valentine dvalen@rutgers.edu before submitting a proposal. Please contact us for more information.

### Expectations

At the end of the award period, awardees must agree to submit a one-to-two page report of activities upon completion of grant period and participate in evaluation efforts for the program. We are deeply concerned with evaluating how support funding through the life-cycle grant program maps to a faculty recipient’s outcomes with respect to career and retention. Please provide us with specific examples of how the life-cycle grant met its intended goal of assisting a faculty member through a personal or family event that would otherwise have affected career advancement.
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CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT

Applications will remain confidential within the Life-Cycle grants committee. Protecting the privacy of the individuals is a fundamental responsibility of the program. The obligation to safeguard confidences is subject to certain exceptions which are ethically and legally justified because of overriding social considerations. Where an applicant threatens to inflict serious bodily harm to another person and there is reasonable probability that the applicant may carry out the threat, the committee should take reasonable precautions for the protection of the intended victim, including notification of university enforcement authorities and denial of request.

If you have any questions about the Life-Cycle grants, please contact RU FAIR Director, Dr. Doreen Valentine dvalen@rutgers.edu or 732-445-1243).

Please submit hard copy application in sealed envelope marked confidential to:

Doreen Valentine, Ph.D.
Director of RU FAIR ADVANCE, Office for the Promotion of Women in Science, Engineering, & Mathematics
640 Bartholomew Road (RUTCOR Modular Unit)
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Disclosure Statement:
The RU FAIR Life-Cycle grants program complements the university faculty policies. Please see the Rutgers University Human Resources website for other policies and programs that assist with work-life balance, including leave policies, eldercare, child care and other life events(http://uhr.rutgers.edu/faculty.htm).

RU FAIR Life Cycle Grant Checklist

• Are you a faculty member of an NSF-supported SEM discipline? The eligible disciplines can be broadly categorized as: physical sciences (e.g., physics, chemistry, astronomy), life sciences and geosciences (e.g., biology, ecology, environmental science), engineering and computer science, mathematics, and social sciences (e.g., psychology, anthropology, sociology, geography). Please see the attached sheet (also available at http://www.umbc.edu/promise/pages/NSF%20supported%20fields.htm) for a complete list of NSF-supported disciplines and the associated fine print. Note that health and medicine fields (including social work, clinical psychology, and nursing) are not considered NSF-supported disciplines, but some humanities fields are NSF-supported (e.g., philosophy and history of science, linguistics).

• Is your budget prepared using the ORSP template?

• Would you be able to carry out your program or research with less than the budgeted amount, if necessary?
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While the amount of funding you can receive from a Life Cycle grant award cannot replace an existing grant, and is typically smaller than significant federal awards, it can certainly supplement your research. Proposals may be submitted that contain justifications for supporting your research efforts. The parameters for life-cycle sub-awards with respect to individual research are less restrictive than mini-grants.

We encourage you to contact Director Doreen Valentine or Program Coordinator Christina Leshko prior to submitting your budget to discuss the Rutgers accounting policies and funding limitations. Please note that SciWomen is an office operating within Rutgers University and is subject to all fiscal policies and reporting requirements of the University.

Research support:
Graduate student support: suggested hourly wage: $12 - $20
Undergraduate student support: suggested hourly wage: $9 - $13
Part-time staff support: suggested hourly wage (depending on depth of experience): $12 - $25
Laboratory Technician: suggested hourly wage (depending on depth of experience): $15 - $25

ο: Support funding is subject to DGCA and UHR (hiring and payroll) policies and procedures. Individual research must connect to the theme of faculty development and advancement in the area of gender and science.

Travel and conference support:
Travel (flight): $1000
Travel (local): $100
Per diem (for 2 days): $100

Budget estimate: $1,200
ο: Only domestic travel can be funded
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National Science Foundation's SUPPORTED FIELDS
(Based on required disciplines for fellowship funding)

CHEMISTRY
5230 Analytical
5250 Bio-inorganic
5240 Bio-organic
5260 Biophysical
9994 Environmental
5290 Inorganic
5330 Organic
5350 Physical
5331 Polymer
5370 Theoretical
5399 Chemistry, other (specify)

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (CISE)
7240 Artificial Intelligence
(including Robotics and Expert Systems)
7210 Computer Science - Languages and Systems
7200 Computer Science - Theory
7270 Computer Systems Design
(including Signal Processing)
7230 Database Systems
7261 Graphics
7260 Human Computer Interaction
7250 Information Technology and Organizations
7290 Networks and Communications
7280 Scientific Computing
7220 Software Engineering
7299 CISE, other (specify)

ENGINEERING
6210 Aeronautical and Aerospace
6240 Agricultural
6250 Bioengineering and Biomedical
6330 Chemical
6350 Civil
6388 Computer Engineering
6390 Electrical and Electronic
6741 Energy
6470 Engineering Mechanics
6532 Engineering Science
9996 Environmental
6580 Industrial

MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES
7010 Algebra or Number Theory
7030 Analysis
7050 Applications of Mathematics
(including Biometrics and Biostatistics)
7110 Geometry
7130 Logic or Foundations of Mathematics
7140 Operations Research
7150 Probability and Statistics
7170 Topology
7199 Mathematics, other (specify)

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY
4999 Astronomy
4930 Astrophysics
8040 Atomic and Molecular
8050 Condensed Matter Physics
8160 Nuclear
8180 Optics
8110 Particle Physics
8200 Physics of Fluids
8210 Plasma
8220 Solid State
8260 Theoretical Physics
8299 Physics, other (specify)

PSYCHOLOGY
4125 Cognitive
4120 Cognitive Neuroscience
4130 Developmental
4150 Experimental or Comparative
4189 Industrial/Organizational
4155 Neuropsychology
4165 Perception and Psychophysics
4170 Personality and Individual Differences
4158 Physiological
4162 Quantitative
4190 Social
4199 Psychology, other (specify)

SOCIAL SCIENCES
0693 Biological Anthropology
0695 Cultural Anthropology
0694 Linguistic Anthropology
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6476 Materials
6620 Mechanical
6660 Metallurgical
6740 Nuclear
6245 Ocean
6716 Petroleum
6480 Polymer
6585 Systems Engineering
6799 Engineering, other (specify)

GEOSCIENCES
5710 Aeronomy
5720 Atmospheric Chemistry
5750 Chemical Oceanography
5770 Climate Dynamics
5740 Geochemistry
5780 Geology
5800 Geophysics
5810 Hydrologic Sciences
5820 Large-scale Dynamics Meteorology
5830 Magnetospheric Physics
5840 Marine Geology and Geophysics
5850 Mesoscale Dynamic Meteorology
5870 Paleoclimate
5860 Paleontology
5880 Physical Meteorology
7799 Physical Oceanography
5890 Solar-Terrestrial
5889 Geosciences, other (specify)

0696 Medical Anthropology
0697 Physical Anthropology
0699 Anthropology, other (specify)
0610 Archaeology
9818 Demography
8599 Economics
(Business Administration not eligible)
8799 Geography
9099 History of Science
9499 International Relations
9299 Linguistics
9098 Philosophy of Science
9399 Political Science
9799 Public Policy
9599 Sociology (Social Work not eligible)
9699 Urban and Regional Planning
9899 Social Sciences, other (specify)

Note: For further clarification of research areas supported by the NSF, see the National Science Foundation Guide to Programs (http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf0203).

5 Warning: NSF Fellowships are awarded only for study leading to research-based master's or doctoral degrees. Practice-oriented master's programs are not eligible for support in this program. PhD programs must be science-based.

6 Warning: Research with disease-related goals is not eligible for support by NSF. Applicants in this field will be judged ineligible if their Proposed Plan of Research has disease-related goals and/or is insufficiently focused on basic research questions.

7 Warning: Clinical and counseling psychology are generally not supported in this program; NSF Fellowship applicants in this field will be judged ineligible if their Proposed Plan of Research focuses on mental disease, abnormality or malfunction.

8 Warning: NSF Fellowship Applicants in these fields may be judged ineligible if the Proposed Plan of Research does not demonstrate a scientific approach.
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