

Dimensions of Biodiversity Workforce REU-Broadening Participation Supplements

The Dimensions of Biodiversity program encourages requests for supplemental funding to broaden participation in the biodiversity-related workforce. These Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) supplements are intended to support students from underrepresented groups and enhance cooperative efforts between PIs with active Dimensions research awards and faculty at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs) or Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs). Details of the Dimensions of Biodiversity program may be found at http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503446.

The 2020 workforce goal of the Dimensions of Biodiversity program is a *diverse, interdisciplinary, globally-engaged scientific workforce capable of transforming and communicating our understanding of biodiversity on earth*. To this end, the overarching goals of the Dimensions of Biodiversity Workforce stream are to:

- Develop a workforce familiar with the tools and skills of biodiversity science, including ecology, taxonomy/phylogenetics, genetics, cyberinfrastructure, and collections
- Develop an internationally engaged workforce capable of working across sub-disciplines
- Increase participation of underrepresented groups, including individuals of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, individuals with disabilities, and non-traditional students (including veterans)
- Develop a network that facilitates transitions between educational stages and mentoring contributions from faculty at PUIs, MSIs, and more research intensive institutions

Description: PIs and coPIs with current Dimensions of Biodiversity research awards may apply for supplemental funding to host REU students from underrepresented groups. Requests may include a stipend of up to \$5000 for a faculty mentor from the REU student(s)'s home institution to mentor the student(s) both at the student(s)'s home institution and in collaboration with the Dimensions PI at the host institution.

Context: As expressed in a recent report from the National Academies, broadening participation in the basic natural sciences is challenging, but is of critical importance to both science and society (National Academies, 2011: *Expanding Underrepresented Minority Participation*). The varied perspectives of a broadly representative workforce will enhance our understanding of the environment and increase the general recognition of the importance of science. Broadening participation is also a basic labor pool issue as the ethnic groups most underrepresented in science and engineering are also the fastest growing populations in the nation.

The National Academies report highlights challenges specific to underrepresented minorities across STEM pathways in preparation, access and motivation, financial aid, academic support, and social integration. Science careers demand years of dedicated training, which places a premium on early and informed educational choices and experiences that are often unavailable to members of underrepresented groups.

Indicators of Success: We intend these supplements to be research and educational experiences that might be otherwise unavailable to undergraduates at PUIs and MSIs, to enhance recruitment and retention rates of underrepresented groups to biodiversity sciences, and to build collaborative relationships across institutions.

Eligibility: Proposers should review the REU solicitation (NSF 12-569, section on REU Supplements) to ensure that eligibility requirements are met. In addition to these requirements, the proposer must be a Dimensions of Biodiversity PI for the duration of the REU supplement and identify the student or provide proof of a planned collaboration with a mentor from a PUI/MSI.

Award Size and Duration: PIs may request supplements for up to 12 months and up to three students. The maximum amount of the supplement is \$20,000. Up to \$5000 (inclusive of indirect costs) may be requested in the Other Direct Cost category (Line G.6) to provide a stipend for a mentor from the student's institution.

Award Information: Anticipated funding for this activity in FY 2013 is \$100,000. We expect to make up to five REU supplements subject to the availability of funds.

Submission Deadline: The deadline for submission is 5:00 p.m., submitter's local time, on February 4, 2013.

Preparation of an REU-BP Supplemental Funding Request: Costs related to hosting REU students may vary, but the budget should detail expenses for providing REU students with appropriate mentoring, materials, and laboratory access at the host institution. If a stipend is requested for the home institution mentor, it should be requested as Other Direct Costs (Line G.6) and the proposal must define the collaborative role played by the home institution mentor in Dimensions of Biodiversity research and the student's experience.

Students must be provided with a stipend for their participation. Details are left to the PI, but we offer the following guidelines, based on other programs. These figures are offered as base guidance and do not consider cost of living, etc.

- University/College/Community College student: not less than \$4000 and for a minimum of eight weeks
- Veteran: approximately 2-months of the Post-9/11 GI-Bill Housing Basic Allowance for Housing (Calculator at <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm>, setting pay grade to E-5.)

Housing stipends may be provided for out-of-town REU students. Appropriate safety waivers and transportation waivers should be obtained from all participants.

After you have prepared the request for supplemental funding, forward it to your organization's Sponsored Research Office for submission. Supplement requests should be submitted under the original award via Fastlane. For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact the FastLane Help Desk: fastlane@nsf.gov or telephone 1-800-673-6188.