Dear Colleague Letter: Increasing College Opportunity Through Improved Mathematics Success in the First Two Years of College

December 4, 2014

Dear Colleague:

Students who are interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and STEM-related careers have challenges moving ahead unless they have successful experiences in mathematics in their first one or two years of college\(^1\). The Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR) at the National Science Foundation (NSF) is pursuing a multi-faceted approach to funding efforts to help us understand and improve learning in mathematics to support college success. This Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) highlights funding opportunities for innovative, early-stage work to improve success in mathematics in the first two years of college. This includes studies on ways to improve the learning of the content of developmental mathematics, independent of setting, and design and development work on interventions and tools, including technology-enhanced learning approaches.

Researchers are invited to submit supplemental funding requests for existing awards; to use the EArly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) funding mechanism, which supports exploratory work in its early stages on untested, but potentially transformative, research ideas or approaches; or submit proposals for conferences to support the following types of activities:

- design and development work to pilot innovations with high impact potential for helping students learn the mathematics generally taught in the first two years of both 2-year and 4-year postsecondary institutions
- conferences in 2015 on using research to improve student success in the mathematics generally taught in the first two years in the first two years of college.

Mechanisms of Support:

Proposers may request supplemental funding to existing awards, Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) funding, or funding for conferences:

- Proposers may immediately submit a request for supplemental funding to any existing EHR awards with an end date beyond fiscal year 2015 by prefixing the title with "MATH: Supplement. Additional information about requesting supplemental support is contained in the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) Part II: Award and Administration Guide (AAG), Chapter I.E.4 available at: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=aag."
- Researchers may also immediately submit EAGER proposals to programs in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources and prefix the title with "MATH: EAGER:"

Proposals must conform to the guidelines for preparation of EAGER proposals (including the requirement to discuss with a program officer prior to submission) as specified in the PAPPG Part I: Grant.
Researchers may also immediately submit conference proposals to programs in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources and prefix the title with "MATH: CONFERENCE:." Instructions for preparing proposals for conferences can be found in the GPG, Chapter II.D.9 available at: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg.

Questions should be addressed to: MathDCL@NSF.gov. This DCL is expected to be in effect from December 4, 2014, through May 1, 2015. All proposals should be submitted by May 1, 2015.

Sincerely,

Joan Ferrini-Mundy
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Education and Human Resources

† National Science and Technology Council, Committee on STEM Education (2013) Federal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education 5-Year Strategic Plan.