



April 24, 2024

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to bring to your attention an exciting opportunity for faculty development that could significantly enhance the research capabilities of South Carolina institutions and engage faculty and students in funded projects. *The SC EPSCoR Faculty Research Development Academy* is an initiative designed to empower faculty members from primarily undergraduate institutions and historically black colleges and universities across South Carolina to pursue external funding from any NSF program (related to research, education, workforce development, etc.) This initiative is the result of a survey we conducted last summer that identified “faculty research development” as a major area of need.

The Academy was developed with the significant input from faculty/administrators at undergraduate institutions in SC. The overarching goal of the Academy is to equip participating faculty members with the necessary skills and resources to enhance their research productivity and competitiveness in securing external funding. By offering a comprehensive curriculum in a hybrid learning format (virtual and in-person) in a two-month period of the summer, the program aims to foster a culture of research excellence and innovation within our academic community.

**Program Overview:** The Academy features a structured curriculum encompassing various aspects of proposal development leading to the completion of a proposal for submission. Through a series of interactive sessions, participants will delve into topics such as writing compelling proposals, engaging with NSF program officers, developing a competitive project description, budgeting, and more. Additionally, the program will provide proposal editing and proposal review services.

The program will be conducted with sessions on Fridays during June and July 2024. A Schedule is attached. At the conclusion of the program, each participant will receive a stipend of \$1,500 for successfully completing the program.

**Program Outcome:** A complete proposal by each participant ready for submission to NSF.

**Application Process:** Admission to the Academy is based on an application consisting of:

1. Contact information and CV in NSF format (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/>) of the faculty member applicant.
2. Research Interest Statement (not to exceed two pages): Each applicant must submit a statement of research interest including the potential NSF solicitation number, proposal submission deadline, and a list of potential collaborators, if any. Applicant must also indicate prior experience with NSF proposal submission and outcome of past submissions.
3. Institutional Support Letter: A statement of support from the institution (Dean or Provost) indicating what type of support they are willing to provide to the faculty for participating in this program (e.g., financial, travel support to in person sessions, other).
4. Institutional Commitment to Research/Scholarship: The institution must also show evidence of commitment to research (letter from provost detailing how research and scholarship are used in the faculty evaluation/tenure process, copy of strategic plan highlighting the institution’s research and scholarship goals, etc.)

Applications must be submitted by the faculty member using the following link:  
<https://scepscor.org/faculty-research-academy-application-form/>.

The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, May 10, 2024.

**Benefits and Impact:** Upon completion of the program, participating faculty members will emerge as effective proposal writers. This will not only bolster their individual competitiveness but also contribute to the overall productivity and student engagement of our institutions.

I urge you to consider promoting this exceptional opportunity within your faculty community and encouraging eligible members to apply. The Academy represents the commitment of the SC EPSCoR Program to support institutions who wish to increase the involvement of their faculty and students in externally funded projects and help realize their research aspirations.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you would like to have a meeting to discuss this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Nadim M. Aziz, Ph.D. F.ASCE  
Director

Attachments: Program Schedule  
Frequently Asked Questions  
Sample of NSF Programs