

**NOTE: See previously-posted opportunities available on our [funding pages](#).**

Below please find recent grant and related announcements. Please send Jon MacDonagh-Dumler ([macdon47@msu.edu](mailto:macdon47@msu.edu)) information you think should be included, especially about interdisciplinary environmental conferences.

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## **ESPP Funding Opportunities: April 05, 2013**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[Request for Information: Reducing Investigator's Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research](#)

**Responses to this RFI will be accepted through May 24, 2013.**

Over the past decade two Federal Demonstration Partnership Faculty Workload Surveys (2005 and 2012) indicate that administrative burdens associated with Federal research funding are consuming roughly 42% of an awardee's available research time. To help address these issues, the National Science Board (Board) recently created a Task Force on Administrative Burdens. The Task Force is seeking recommendations from principal investigators for reducing the administrative workload associated with their Federal awards. Responses to this RFI will be considered as the Board develops recommendations to ensure investigators' administrative workload is at an appropriate level.

[Science: Becoming the Messenger](#)

**May 29 2013 7:30AM to 6:00PM**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will be holding a workshop, "Science: Becoming the Messenger" on May 29, 2013, at Boise State University Student Union, 1910 University Drive, Boise ID 83725. We are extending an invitation to principal investigators (PI), early career researchers and engineers, and students and postdocs from institutions and universities in Idaho who would like to learn to communicate effectively to a broad audience.

[Dimensions of Biodiversity: 2010 - 2012 Projects](#)

**Report Released: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is now in the fourth year of the 10-year Dimensions of Biodiversity program to characterize the least-well-known aspects of the diversity of life on Earth. NSF funded 14 new projects in FY 2012 bringing the total number of active projects to 41. An important distinction of the Dimensions initiative is the simultaneous investigation of the links and feedbacks between genetic, taxonomic/phylogenetic, and functional dimensions of biodiversity. The Dimensions of Biodiversity program is actively developing the workforce and partnerships necessary for the unique human- and cyber-infrastructure challenges of an interdisciplinary network of researchers. Dimensions is partnering with NASA to fund projects that use remote sensing technologies to expand biodiversity investigations across broad spatial and**

temporal scales. International partnerships with the Chinese National Natural Science Foundation (NSFC) and two Brazilian funding agencies [Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education of the Federative Republic of Brazil (CAPES) and the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP)] will support the exchange of students and scientists, joint research projects, university partnerships and the digitization of biological collections.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES**

[MPS AGEP-GRS Dear Colleague Letter NSF 13-071](#)

The Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) encourages Principal Investigators (PIs) of current MPS awards to support one (additional) Ph.D. student per award, through a partnership with the Division of Human Resource Development (HRD) in the Directorate of Education and Human Resources (EHR). This opportunity is available to PIs with current MPS research awards whose institutions and/or academic units are either currently participating in the EHR-sponsored "Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate" (AGEP) program; or whose institutions and/or academic units have participated in the AGEP program in the past (AGEP Legacy institutions).

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR FACULTY**

[Dear Colleague Letter: NSF/SBE partnering in round 3 of the Digging into Data Challenge - NSF 13-069](#)

This Dear Colleague Letter is to announce that the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences is partnering in the third round of the Digging into Data Challenge (DiD). Digging into Data is a grant competition designed to spur computationally intensive research in the social sciences and humanities. The Digging into Data Challenge aims to address how the availability of "big data" is changing the research landscape for the social sciences and humanities. Interested researchers are asked to review the Digging into Data Challenge web site for details about the competition (<http://www.diggingintodata.org/>). Questions should be directed to the NSF program officer for the Digging into Data Challenge, Elizabeth Tran at [etran@nsf.gov](mailto:etran@nsf.gov).

[Dear Colleague Letter: FY 2013 Career-Life Balance \(CLB\)-Faculty Early Career Development Program \(CAREER\) Supplemental Funding Requests NSF 13-075](#)

The purpose of this DCL is to announce the continuation of the supplemental funding opportunity initiated in FY 2012 for PIs supported in the CAREER program. CAREER Principal Investigators (PIs) are invited to submit supplemental funding requests to support additional personnel (e.g., research technicians or equivalent) to sustain research when the PI is on family leave. These requests may include funding for up to 3 months of salary support, for a maximum of \$12,000 in salary compensation. The fringe benefits and associated indirect costs may be in addition to the salary payment

and therefore, the total supplemental funding request may exceed \$12,000.

[Dear Colleague Letter - FY 2014 Engineering Research Centers \(ERC\) Program Solicitation - NSF 13-081](#)

Date: March 27, 2013

Within the next month, we anticipate issuing a solicitation calling for proposals to establish new Engineering Research Centers (ERC) in FY 2014. The solicitation includes two types of proposal submission tracks - Open Topic ERCs (engineered systems vision chosen by the PI) and Nanosystems ERCs (NERC) (topics where the realization of the engineered system vision requires a significant body of new nanoscale research). The actual number of each type of ERC funded center will depend on the scale and scope of the proposed centers, the availability of funds, and the quality of the proposals submitted. Up to four awards are anticipated and there is no preference between the two tracks.

## **AGRICULTURE**

[USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational Program](#)

In FY 2013, subject to availability of funds it is anticipated that approximately \$ 136 million will be made available to support new awards within the AFRI Foundational Program.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) established the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) under which the Secretary of Agriculture to address food and agricultural sciences in six priority areas, including: 1) plant health and production and plant products; 2) animal health and production and animal products; 3) food safety, nutrition, and health; 4) renewable energy, natural resources, and environment; 5) agriculture systems and technology; and 6) agriculture economics and rural communities.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

[USEPA: Science for Sustainable and Healthy Tribes EPA-G2013-STAR-X1](#)

<b>Funding Instrument Type:</b>	<b>Cooperative</b>	
<b>Agreement Grant</b>		
<b>Expected Number of Awards:</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>Estimated Total Program Funding:</b>	<b>\$6,000,000</b>	
<b>Award Ceiling:</b>		
<b>\$920,000</b>		
<b>Award Floor:</b>		<b>\$0</b>
<b>Closing Date for Applications:</b>	<b>Jun 25, 2013</b>	Please refer to
the full		

announcement, including Section IV, for

additional information on submission methods

and due dates.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, is seeking applications proposing research on science for sustainable and healthy tribes. This solicitation is focused on research to develop sustainable solutions to environmental problems that affect tribes. The objectives of the awards to be made under this solicitation are to improve understanding of: 1) the health impacts of climate change on tribal populations; and 2) the health impacts of indoor air pollution exposures that derive from or are directly affecting traditional tribal life-ways and cultural practices. In both cases, projects should focus on impacts to vulnerable sub-populations of the Tribal communities. Proposals should also consider sustainable, culturally appropriate and acceptable pollution prevention, and adaptation/mitigation strategies.

## MODELING

### [Water Sustainability and Climate NSF 13-535](#)

<b>Full Proposal Deadline(s):</b>	<b>September 10, 2013</b>
<b>Expected Number of Awards:</b>	<b>10 to 24</b>
<b>Estimated Total Program Funding:</b>	<b>\$26,000,000</b>
<b>Award Ceiling:</b>	
<b>    \$5,000,000</b>	

Three categories of awards are anticipated for this solicitation.

**Category 1 Awards:** Small team synthesis, modeling, integration and assessment projects that will use existing data (or new measurements) to study entire watersheds and groundwater sites. Both NSF and USDA/NIFA funds will be used to support this category. Some projects may be funded directly by USDA/NIFA. Projects will have a duration of 2-4 years for a maximum of \$600,000 for each award. An estimated 4-8 awards are expected to be made for Category 1 proposals.

**Category 2 Awards:** Place-based modeling studies with new observations, 3 to 5 years in duration and in the range of \$2 million to \$4 million maximum for each project. An estimated 2-5 awards are expected to be made for Category 2 proposals.

**Category 3 Awards:** Synthesis, modeling and integration grants that will use only existing data to integrate and synthesize across watershed and groundwater sites. Both NSF and USDA/NIFA funds will be used to support this category. Some projects may be funded directly by USDA/NIFA. Project duration of 3-5 years and in the range of \$1 million to \$2.5 million maximum for each project. An estimated 6-8 awards are expected to be made for Category 3 proposals.

The goal of the Water Sustainability and Climate (WSC) solicitation is to understand and predict the interactions among the water system and climate change, land use (including agriculture and forest production systems), the built environment, and

ecosystem function and services through place-based research and integrative models. Studies of a water system in its entirety using models and/or observations at specific sites, singly or in combination, that allow for spatial and temporal extrapolation, as well as integration across the different processes in that system are encouraged, especially to the extent that they advance the development of theoretical frameworks and predictive understanding.

**Geospace Environment Modeling (GEM) NSF 10-510**

**Full Proposal Deadline:** **October 15, 2013**  
**October 15, Annually Thereafter**

**Anticipated Type of Award:** **Standard Grant or Continuing Grant**

**Estimated Number of Awards:** **8 to 12 new awards in each year**

**Anticipated Funding Amount:** **\$750,000 for new awards in each year**

**Other Budgetary Limitations:** **Maximum award size is \$175,000 per year, with a maximum duration of 5 years.**

The Geospace Environment Modeling (GEM) program is the second in order of inception of three programs in Upper Atmospheric Research (CEDAR, GEM, and SHINE) designed to address the question of how the sun influences geospace and the upper atmosphere. The primary goal of GEM is to understand how energy, mass, and momentum flow in the solar wind is coupled into the Earth's magnetosphere and in turn how the magnetosphere is coupled to the Earth's atmosphere. A critical component for understanding global change is the development of general circulation models (GCMs) that can be used to study the physical processes by which global change takes place.

To facilitate concentrated research efforts on specific topics of relevance to the GEM goals, the GEM program is organized into a set of focus groups with each focus group examining a specific scientific topic relevant to understanding the dynamics of the magnetosphere. Each focus group has a limited lifetime of at most five years and a number of different focus groups are active at any one time. In addition to the research focus groups, the development of modules for a Geospace General Circulation Model (GGCM) is done on a continuing basis. An annual workshop is held for one week each summer to provide a forum for investigators to present and discuss recent results, exchange information, plan future experiments, and improve and develop modules and full models for the GGCM.

**WATER**

**Hydrologic Sciences NSF 13-531**

**Full Proposal Deadline(s):** **June 03, 2013** **June**  
**1, Annually Thereafter**

**December 05, 2013** **Dec. 5, Annually**  
**Thereafter**

**Anticipated funding:** **\$10,000,000, annually**

**Estimated number of awards:** **25 to 35 standard or continuing grants or**

### **cooperative agreements per year**

The Hydrologic Sciences Program is part of the Surface Earth Processes (SEP) Section of the Division of Earth Sciences (EAR). EAR provides funding for the conduct of research concerning the solid Earth and its surface environment. In addition, EAR provides some support for instrumental and observational infrastructure, cyberinfrastructure, and innovative educational and outreach activities. The Hydrologic Sciences Program focuses on the fluxes of water in the environment that constitute the water cycle as well as the mass and energy transport function of the water cycle in the environment. The Program supports studying processes of rainfall to runoff to infiltration and streamflow; evaporation and transpiration; as well as the flow of water in soils and aquifers and the transport of suspended, dissolved and colloidal components. The Hydrological Sciences Program retains strong emphasis on linking the fluxes of water and the components carried by water across boundaries between various interacting components of the terrestrial system and the mechanisms by which these fluxes co-organize over a variety of timescales and/or alter the fundamentals of the interacting components. Water is seen as the mode of coupling among various components of the environment and emphasis is placed on how the coupling is enabled and how it functions as a process. Topics may be investigated as deterministic or stochastic processes by observational, experimental or modeling approaches. The program supports studies examining (1) the spatial and temporal heterogeneity of water and chemical fluxes and storages from local to global scales, (2) interfacial water fluxes and pathways among system compartments; and (3) how hydrologic processes couple to the critical zone via land use change, climate change and ecosystems function.