NSF NRT Campus Competition

The UA’s Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Economic Development (VPRED) invites you to participate in a campus selection process for the NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program (http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15542/nsf15542.htm?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click ). The competition will be managed by the AVRP (Sagers) and submissions will be reviewed by an advisory committee composed of select research deans from the UA campus.

Required documents: Submissions will consist of a project title and a project summary, mandatory elements of the NRT proposal. The project summary should follow the format described in the solicitation:

Submit a one-page Letter of Intent with the following information:

- The name and departmental affiliation of the Principal Investigator (PI);
- The name(s) and departmental affiliation(s) of the Co-PI(s) and others composing the 10 Core Participants;
- The lead institution and any other participating institution(s);
- Project title: For Traineeship Track proposals, the title should begin with “NRT-DESE:” for projects with a Data-Enabled Science and Engineering theme, or with “NRT:” for projects on a cross-cutting, interdisciplinary theme other than DESE; for Innovations of Graduate Education Track proposals, the title should begin with “NRT-IGE:”; 
- Synopsis (200-word limit): For Traineeship Track proposals, provide a brief summary of the vision and goals of the proposed training program including a brief description of the interdisciplinary research theme, the main training elements, the integration of the research and training, and the need for the program; for IGE Track proposals, provide a brief description of the graduate education models, approaches, or activities to be piloted and tested, including a brief description of the disciplinary or interdisciplinary needs and/or challenges addressed
- Keywords: For Traineeship Track proposals, include 4-5 keywords that specify the disciplines and/or themes targeted; for IGE Track proposals, include 4-5 keywords that describe the model, approach, and/or activity to be piloted and tested.

Submission: Application materials should be submitted as a single .pdf file. Proposals should be submitted to research@uark.edu with the subject line: “UA NSF NRT campus competition.”

Deadline: Close of business, February 25, 2015

Notification date: Invitations to submit a full proposal will be made by March 2, 2015.

Review criteria: Submissions will be evaluated by the intellectual merit and broader impacts of the project. In addition, the following NRT-specific criteria will be reviewed:
For the Traineeship Track

- **Integration of Research and Education**
  Does the proposal address training needs that are not currently available at the institution(s) and/or in disciplines, and are there clear and compelling connections between the training elements and the interdisciplinary research theme?

- **Interdisciplinarity**
  What is the degree of interdisciplinarity and the potential for high impact synergies among the disciplines?

- **Professional Development**
  What is the breadth and quality of the plan to provide NRT trainees with professional development training for a range of research and research-related career pathways, both within and outside academia?

- **Integrating Diversity into NSF Programs, Projects, and Activities**
  What is the quality of the recruiting and mentoring plans to broaden participation?

- **Evaluation**
  Does the evaluation plan include outcomes, performance measures, benchmarks, and an evaluation timetable, as well as how formative evaluation will improve practice?

For the NRT Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) Track

- **Evaluation**
  Is there a well-conceived plan, including tangible metrics, to evaluate the outcomes of the proposed project?

- **STEM education, disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and workforce needs**
  To what extent would the project fulfill STEM education, disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and workforce needs?

- **Knowledge generation**
  To what extent would the project generate the knowledge needed to inform implementation, adaptability, and scalability of potentially transformative improvements to graduate education?