



University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost

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FROM: George E. Klinzing, Vice Provost for Research

DATE: April 13, 2010

SUBJECT: NSF Math and Science Partnership (MSP) NSF 10-556

The *Math and Science Partnerships Program* is a major research and development effort that supports innovative partnerships to improve K-12 student achievement in mathematics and science. For more details on this competition, refer to <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2010/nsf10556/nsf10556.htm>. For information on funded awards, connect to http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5756 Please further distribute this to faculty.

NSF supports the following types of MSP projects:

1. **Targeted Partnerships** focus on studying and solving teaching and learning issues within a specific grade range or at a critical juncture in education, and/or within a specific disciplinary focus in mathematics or the sciences;
2. **Institute Partnerships - Teacher Institutes for the 21st Century** focus on meeting national needs for teacher leaders/master teachers who have deep knowledge of disciplinary content for teaching and are fully prepared to be school- or district-based intellectual leaders in mathematics or the sciences;
3. **MSP-Start Partnerships** are for awardees new to the MSP program, especially from minority-serving institutions, community colleges and primarily undergraduate institutions, to support the necessary data analysis, project design, evaluation and team building activities needed to develop a full MSP Targeted or Institute Partnership;
4. **Phase II Partnerships** are for prior NSF MSP Partnership awardees to continue implementation on specific innovative areas of their work where evidence of the potential for significant positive impact is clearly documented. The intent is that there will be focused efforts to carry out the necessary research to advance knowledge and understanding in the specific area(s); and
5. **Research, Evaluation and Technical Assistance (RETA) projects** (a) study the relationships among MSP activities and student learning using theoretically informed, methodologically rigorous methods; (b) develop and validate instruments of teacher or student knowledge that MSPs and others can use to assess the impact of their work, or (c) provide technical assistance to MSP projects to help them rigorously evaluate their work

Some restrictions apply:

- An institution of higher education may be the **lead partner in only one proposal** among any of these Partnership categories – *Targeted, Institute, MSP-Start and Phase II*.
- Organizations may be a **non-lead** partner on more than one proposal.
- RETA proposers may submit one or more RETA proposals.

Because only one submission can go forward, please send **Elaine Riberich** by May 14, 2010** an abstract of the proposed project. NSF deadlines are July 8, 2010 and for the Targeted Partnerships only October 14, 2010.

If necessary, a University review committee will be convened to determine which proposal will be endorsed for the full proposal deadlines. For a full list of Programs Requiring a Limited Number of Submissions per Institution connect to the Office of Research home page at <http://www.pitt.edu/~offres/> then select *Funding Source Information*.

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