



2021 RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR TEACHERS (RET) WEBINAR

Presented by RET Program Officers:
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GOALS OF THE RET PROGRAM

- Provide authentic summer research experiences for K-14 STEM educators
- Foster long-term collaborations between universities, community colleges, school districts, and industry partners



RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF EXPERTISE

- K-14 educators:
 - Enhance scientific disciplinary knowledge in engineering or computer science
 - Translate research experiences into classroom activities and curricula
- Hosting research faculty:
 - Deepen understanding of classroom practices, current curricula, pedagogy, and K-14 educational environments

OVERVIEW OF FUNDING

	Max amount	Duration	Number of participants
Sites	\$600K total; \$10K/ participant/ year	Up to 3 years; during the summer	10 or more
Supplements	\$10K/ participant	1 year; during summer, academic year, or both	1-2 (exceptions considered)

RET SITES AND SUPPLEMENTS SHOULD INCLUDE:

- The form and nature of the prospective participant's involvement in the principal investigator's ongoing or proposed research
- What type of sustained follow-up will be provided to translate the participant's research experience into classroom practice
- The nature of the mentoring that the participant(s) will receive
- The experience of the principal investigator (or other possible research mentors) in involving K-12 teachers and/or community college faculty in research
- Any previous RET supplemental support and the outcomes from that support
- The process and criteria for selection of participants
- A brief biographical sketch of the participant, if available

SITES

KEY COMPONENTS OF RET SITE PROPOSALS

Nature of Research Activities

- **Well-defined research focus in CISE or ENG**
- Cohort experience
- Include a “Participant Component” section
- Clear research questions and objectives

Site logistics

- Timeline during summer experience and academic follow on plan

KEY COMPONENTS OF RET SITE PROPOSALS

RET Site Team experience/ training

- Prior experience of PI and mentors
- Prior engagement with K-14 educators
- Mentor training for graduate students and faculty mentors
- Any related involvement with industry
- DEI training

KEY COMPONENTS OF RET SITE PROPOSALS

Participant Recruitment and Selection

- Types/names of schools, districts, 2-year colleges and rationale
- Encouraged to recruit 2 participants from the same school
- Specific efforts to recruit members from underrepresented groups
- Plan for teachers from different grade levels or pre-/in-service
- Discussion of how participants will be selected

KEY COMPONENTS OF RET SITE PROPOSALS

Development of Curricular Modules

- Woven into timeline
- Connected to curricula educators follow and state/national teaching standards
- Dissemination to local and national audiences

Professional Development

- Responsible, ethical research, lab methods and safety
- Deepen knowledge of research topics, career paths, industry
- Presentation of research results

KEY COMPONENTS OF RET SITE PROPOSALS

Evaluation

- Formative and summative
- External evaluator (\$3-5K/ year)
- Long term impact

Dissemination

- Reach a broad audience
- Strategies to share research projects, curriculum, best practices
- Include RET participants in scientific meetings

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RET RENEWALS

Results from Prior NSF Support:

- Earlier RET project(s) and outcomes(s) in sufficient detail
 - Results from the project evaluation, summary information on recruiting efforts and number of applicants, demographic composition of participants and their home institutions, follow-up and dissemination activities, lessons learned, modifications and changes to the proposed Site, and a list of publications or reports (if to be submitted for publication) resulting from the original NSF award

RET SUPPLEMENTS

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- Part of new or existing ENG or CISE research awards

IMPORTANT INFO

- Full BPC Solicitation (NSF 21-606):

https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21606/nsf21606.htm#awd_info

RET Site proposal due date:

November 16, 2021

- RET Supplement proposals due date:
 - Contact cognizant Program Director(s)



QUESTIONS