UNDERSTANDING NSF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Scott Grissom
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Blvd, Suite 835
Arlington, VA 22230
(703) 292-4643
sgrissom@nsf.gov

ABSTRACT

This session highlights programs in the National Science Foundation (NSF) of particular interest to computer science educators. Topics includes a description of program goals, guidelines, review process as well as strategies for writing competitive proposals.

INTRODUCTION

NSF supports projects to improve education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through several programs in its Education and Human Resources (EHR) directorate, as well as in its research directorates, including Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE). This tutorial presents a description of some education-related programs in the EHR and CISE directorates, and enables participants to interact with the presenters concerning specific project ideas that could be appropriate for the various programs.

SPECIFIC PROGRAMS DISCUSSED

Complete details about each of the following programs can be found on the NSF websites for the Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE) [1] and the Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE) [2].

- Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI)
- CISE Pathways to Revitalized Undergraduate Computing Education (CPATH)
- Federal Cyber Service: Scholarships for Service (SFS)
- Research Experiences for Undergraduates Sites (REU Sites)
- Broadening Participation in Computing (BPC)
- Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM)
- STEM Talent Expansion Program (STEP)
- Advanced Technological Education (ATE)

WRITING COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS

NSF programs are quite competitive but there are simple strategies that investigators should be aware of to improve their chances of success. First and foremost, read the Program Solicitation carefully. The goal is to help reviewers quickly understand what you intend to do and that you have given sufficient thought of how you intend to do it. Organize the proposal to address the essential
components described in the solicitation. Use headings, boldface and bulleted lists to help the reader quickly understand the organization of the proposals. Address each point thoroughly but succinctly. And finally, start well before the submission deadline. Include sufficient lead time to allow colleagues to provide feedback and for your research office to approve the proposal. Specific directions for completing a proposal can be found online [3].

REFERENCES