

ADVANCE INCENTIVE FUND 2004

Request for Proposals

The NSF ADVANCE Incentive Fund invites URI personnel, men and women, to apply for awards that promote the careers of women faculty in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The fund supports efforts by individuals or departments that foster climate or organizational change, that support research by women faculty, and that support the general goals of ADVANCE.

Eligibility – URI ADVANCE fellows, and female STEM faculty seeking to strengthen an existing research program or “kickstart” a new research program, or female or male faculty or personnel in any department who promote the research careers of female STEM faculty. The research agenda to be supported must be eligible for NSF funding from a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) program.

Available Funding – ADVANCE expects to award up to a total of \$40,000 per year, awarded in two rounds per year. In order to disperse funds across several STEM departments, we expect that most awards will be about \$5 - \$10K but smaller and larger requests will be considered.

Deadlines – For this first round of awards, applications must be delivered in hard copy (5 copies) to the ADVANCE Resource Center, 001 Carlotti Hall, and e-mailed to silver@uri.edu by **Monday, February 23, 2004**.

Review Process – An ADVANCE subcommittee will review the proposals and forward recommendations for funding to the ADVANCE leadership team. Members of ADVANCE who submit proposals to the incentive fund will be asked to remove themselves from any decision process that involves their proposal. ADVANCE expects to review the proposals and release funding to the successful applicants by Monday March 22, 2003.

Example Programs – ADVANCE will consider funding the following or other similar requests or nominations (this is not an exhaustive list and we welcome other creative ideas):

- A collaborative research project, proposal or paper in which a female STEM faculty member is a PI, Co-PI, author or co-author. For example, this could fund an item of equipment needed for the project but not funded by any other means. With strong documented justification outlining the extent of the work required, summer salary used to conduct research or prepare a proposal could also be requested. The money does not need to go directly to the female STEM faculty member, but there must be a clear benefit to the overall career and effort of that person.
- An invited visit by a distinguished female scientist in the departments’ field of expertise, where the visitor will, for example: a) give a departmental seminar to faculty and graduate students; b) give a seminar to undergraduate students, and c) meet with or conduct a workshop for female faculty members. Proposals that support the goals of ADVANCE through the incorporation of different types of interactions will be given priority. The goal of such a proposal would be to increase the number of role models available for young women faculty and women graduate students.
- A trip in which a senior faculty member, male or female, travels with a junior female STEM faculty member to a funding organization such as NSF, NOAA, NIH, USDA, or to a professional conference with the goal of enhancing networking opportunities for the junior faculty.
- A project in which a senior faculty member agrees to co-advise a doctoral student with a female STEM faculty member.

- A departmental project, activity, or re-organization that supports the general goals of ADVANCE.
- Nomination of an Award of Merit to an individual or department that has contributed exceptionally to the goals of ADVANCE. (ADVANCE PIs, Associates, and Fellows are not eligible.)

Submission Details – The project description should be no more than 5 pages long and should include the following parts:

1. Objectives
2. Short Justification
3. Clear description and timeline of the research, activity, and/or climate change that will be supported or rewarded.
4. Budget describing how the monies will be used, with justification and information on any other funding that has been obtained for this project.
5. Justification that the research or research career that will benefit from the funding is NSF STEM fundable.
6. For a collaborative research proposal, a single project description approved and signed by all members of the team is required as above. In addition, each team member will write a letter to ADVANCE that describes how this will be a successful collaboration and how it will enhance the career of the female STEM faculty member. For example, senior faculty members who have invited a junior female faculty member to join a research team should outline the steps they will take to assure the success of the project, and show how the proposed project will contribute to the research career of the junior faculty member. The junior faculty member should outline how the proposed project will contribute to her research career and why these particular collaborators are necessary to the project. The letters should also describe the work that each individual expects to contribute to the project. Individual applicants, or projects that are more general in nature (i.e. speaker requests), need only submit the project description without letters.

The ADVANCE committee may request additional information by phone during the review process. At the end of each funded activity, there will be a one page final report due to the ADVANCE office one month after the completion date given in the approved proposal timeline.

Please direct all inquiries and submissions to the ADVANCE Resource Center, 001 Carlotti Hall, 874-9422, or silver@uri.edu



URI-ADVANCE is an NSF-funded, 5- year institutional transformation program to increase the representation of tenure-track women faculty in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, to provide career development and support services, and to promote an enriched working environment for all faculty.

