

Syracuse University



Education Model Program on Water-Energy Research

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING MINI-GRANTS

Synopsis of program: EMPOWER provides an interdisciplinary approach to graduate education that is focused on research at the interface of water and energy cycles and prepares students with the technical knowledge and professional skills needed to compete for careers in energy, environmental consulting, government, nonprofits, academia, and beyond. An important aspect of that training is the development of transferrable professional skills relevant to research and research-related careers. Professional development training mini-grants are intended to support activities that help EMPOWER trainees:

- 1) Become familiar with the techniques, languages, cultures, and range of careers available in their area of study
- 2) Develop professional skills relevant to research and research-related careers (e.g., project management, leadership, communication, entrepreneurship, conflict resolution)
- 3) Understand and convey the relevance and potential broader impacts of their research in areas related to business, law, public policy and communications, and be able to identify the potential benefits of their research to a range of stakeholders
- 4) Develop written and oral communication skills desired by employers in academic and non-academic careers that enable them to synthesize and translate the impacts of their research

Mini-grants are available to support (1) participation in professional development training opportunities not available through existing EMPOWER programming, or other professional development program at SU or (2) facilitation of professional development training that is open to EMPOWER trainees and other STEM graduate students at SU. Programming must address one or more of the above goals of EMPOWER and address a training need not currently being met by EMPOWER or other graduate program on campus. Training opportunities should be broadly appealing to students in the EMPOWER program and not discipline-specific.

Examples of possible activities include, but are not limited to:

- A panel or mini-symposium on job opportunities within the water-energy nexus

- A graduate student-led workshop aimed at enhancing relevant technical skills
- Informal gathering to discuss cutting-edge communication skills such as podcasting, facilitated by a social media expert
- Field trip to explore a non-academic career setting
- Participation in a professional development workshop offered through a professional society or other graduate training program.

Funding available: Trainees can apply for funding related to (but not limited to) any of the following: travel, honoraria, consultant fees, conference hosting, publicity, or conference registration. Trainees with successful proposals will work with the EMPOWER Program Manager to facilitate payment of programming costs. Any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the trainee will be reimbursed through submission of original receipts. Funding requests should typically not exceed \$2,000 and costs should be clearly justified in the proposal submission materials. Collaborative proposals are encouraged.

Submission Guidelines: Proposals should be no longer than two pages and describe the following:

- 1) **Proposed activity.**
- 2) **Purpose of the proposed activity.** *How does the proposed activity relate to one or more of EMPOWER's goals? What gap in graduate education is being filled by this activity?*
- 3) **Detailed plan of the logistics for executing this activity (as applicable).** *Date and time, location, participants, facilitators, and publicity.*
- 4) **Anticipated costs.** Please include a proposed budget, noting any grants or other sources of support secured to support the endeavor. Any costs incurred above the proposed budget will be at the applicant's expense.

Review Criteria: Successful proposals will demonstrate concrete plans for use of funds as well as clear connections between the plans and the goals of EMPOWER. Proposals are reviewed by EMPOWER's Research Committee. Priority will be given to proposals submitted by trainees who have not previously received seed grant money from EMPOWER.

Once a proposal has been approved for funding, the trainee will work with the EMPOWER Program Director and Program Manager to execute the planned program.

Follow-up Report: For each funded proposal, a short report will be expected within 6 months from the completion of the funded activity. In the report, please detail the activities undertaken and the status of your progress towards your expected outcomes.

By accepting funding, the proposer agrees to participate in evaluation activities associated with the grant program.

To apply for these funds, please email your proposal to Annie Pennella (apennell@syr.edu). In the subject line, indicate "Professional Development Training Mini-Grant." Proposals are considered on a rolling basis.