

Syracuse University



Education Model Program on Water-Energy Research

PROFESSIONAL NETWORK DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Synopsis of program: A central goal of the EMPOWER NRT is to prepare graduate students for careers in academia, business, government, non-profits or other non-academic careers at the water-energy nexus. A key aspect of professional preparation is development of a strong and diverse professional network. Toward that end, funding is available to facilitate connections between NRT trainees and professionals outside of Syracuse University. Trainees may visit another university, a field site abroad, a national research lab, a not-for-profit agency, or other professional setting where there is an opportunity to directly interact with experts outside the student's traditional professional network. Funding may also be used to have a potential mentor/collaborator visit Syracuse University. These professional network development grants may be used to strategically develop opportunities for a career pathway experience with a professional mentor.

These grants are aimed at cultivating professional networks to ensure trainees:

- 1) develop a professional network that will foster the establishment of mentoring relationships with professionals in academic and non-academic careers
- 2) receive mentoring from professionals external to the institution
- 3) are familiar with the techniques, languages, cultures, and range of careers available in their discipline
- 4) understand the relevance and potential broader impacts of their research in areas related to business, law, public policy and communications

Funding available: Trainees can apply for financial support related to (but not limited to) any of the following: travel expenses for the trainee or a visitor (transportation, lodging, meals, etc.) and specific costs related to the identified project goal. All funding will be provided on a reimbursement basis. Original receipts must be submitted for funds to be released. 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) **Your purpose in requesting funds.** *In other words, what will the funding enable you to do?*
- 2) **Short-term outcome.** *If you had access these funds, what will you achieve?*
- 3) **Long-term outcome.** *How will achieving the goal above help with your longer-term career goals?*
- 4) **Linkage to goals of the EMPOWER NRT program.** *How does your proposed activity directly relate to the programmatic goals listed in this solicitation?*
- 5) **Timeline for activities.**
- 6) **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 short- and long-term goals, as well as the objectives of the EMPOWER NRT. 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.

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 Network Development Grant." Proposals are considered on a rolling basis.