

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RESEARCH, SERVICE AND OUTREACH PROGRAM FUNDING

The Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technologies (WIST) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) is seeking proposals in order to fund research, laboratory service development and outreach programs offered through WIST. Those awarded funding will be named WIST Scholars.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Area of Interest: WIST seeks proposals requesting financial support to develop research programs, education curricula, or laboratory services that support its mission and vision. Appropriate projects will use applied scholarship to develop or enhance economic activity in the state of Wisconsin in a manner that preserves natural resources, reduces waste or mitigates an environmental problem while enhancing Wisconsin's quality of life by providing employment, goods and services to the region.

Research

Proposals are encouraged that seek to begin or enhance a research project aimed at producing products and services that improve environmental sustainability of a Wisconsin industry, in support of the WIST mission statement. Successfully funded proposals will include a description of the product or service, the supported industry, and plan for commercialization. Projects are not restricted to the basic and applied sciences and may come from any field of scholarship as long as they match the WIST mission and proposal criteria. Successful applicants will be expected to apply for extramural funding in collaboration with the WIST research division to support the project through its conclusion.

Education

Proposals that seek to develop outreach education applications in WIST are encouraged. These types of proposals are expected to provide courses or educational materials that are compatible with the WIST mission and vision. Successfully funded proposals will include learning-appropriate objectives, curriculum, and a description of the intended audience, an assessment plan, and a list of instructors. The mode of delivery whether face-to-face, on-line or hybrid should be described for course offerings. Any new educational courses or educational materials developed with support of WIST funding are expected to be offered to stakeholders both on- and off-campus as part of the WIST education division.

Laboratory Services

Proposals that seek to develop laboratory services in WIST are encouraged. These types of proposals are expected to provide analytical techniques required to support sustainable industries and research and/or development of renewable energy or products. Successfully funded projects in the area of laboratory services should result in publications of new techniques or standard test methods. Any new services developed with support of WIST funding are expected to be offered to stakeholders both on- and off-campus as part of the WIST laboratory services division.

Eligible Applicants: To be eligible, the PI must be UWSP faculty or staff, but external Co-PIs and collaborators are welcomed. In addition to new projects, proposals to supplement an outside project or additional research and outreach for ongoing programs will also be considered. Proposers are encouraged to partner across departments, units, and colleges, and with external organizations and provide opportunities for undergraduate student involvement in projects as appropriate.

Available Funding and Funding Requirements:

1. **Seed Grants:** These grants (maximum \$5,000 each) are intended for short-term research studies, outreach course development and laboratory services development. PI must stipulate duration of the study and note such on the proposal time line (15 month maximum). Proposal must incorporate an outreach/public awareness component. Research funding is to be used to support a large-scale research proposal to be submitted to an outside funding agency. Development grants in outreach education and laboratory services must result in new offerings to the public through WIST. **Five page maximum length.**
2. **Project Grants:** Grants to support one- or two-year studies (maximum of \$25,000 each) will be considered. PI must stipulate duration of the study and note such on the proposal time line. WIST funding is to be used to support a new or ongoing line of study. Research funding is to be used to support a large-scale research proposal to be submitted to an outside funding agency. Proposal must incorporate a public awareness component. A seed grant is not a prerequisite to applying for a project grant. **Eight page maximum length.**

Special Notes:

1. Cover page is required. This page includes Project title, PI, Co-PI(s), represented units, total cost of project, amount requested from WIST, and abstract of project (maximum of 250 words).
2. PI may be asked to meet with WIST personnel in advance of WIST award or statement of support.
3. Funding period begins April 1, 2011.
4. PI may be asked to meet the WIST personnel during the duration of the research.
5. WIST division directors will provide a letter of support for a UPDC grant proposal for each project funded by WIST.
6. All WIST-funded projects will require a final report due to the WIST director upon completion of funding period. For multi-year projects an annual report is required.

Deadlines: Proposals must be emailed to wist@uwsp.edu. **Proposals must be received by 5:00 PM Central Time, Jan. 7, 2011.** The selection committee will select and notify successful applicants no later than Feb. 4, 2011.

Administration and Inquiries: The program will be administered through WIST. All questions regarding the program should be directed via email to the WIST division directors according to the project proposal area.

Research Projects – Eric Singaas (eric.singsaas@uwsp.edu)

Outreach Education Projects – Gerry Ring (gerry.ring@uwsp.edu)

Laboratory Services Projects – Don Guay (don.guay@uwsp.edu)

The mission of WIST is to provide research, education and services that improve Wisconsin's environment and economy long-term through collaboration of educators, students, and researchers. WIST develops innovative curricula, technologies, and products that promote efficient resource use and benefit Wisconsin's citizens, businesses and industries.

WIST will be a nationally recognized, self-supporting institute leading collaborative research, education and services that introduce and facilitate development and adoption of sustainable technologies and practices which contribute to an improved quality of life for present and future generations.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated on how well they address each of the following criteria. Arrange your narrative to correspond with the numbered items listed below. Proposals that do not address each of the criteria will not be considered.

1. **Scope and Applicability:** Describe how your project addresses a WIST area of interest. Identify the project's objectives and benefits. Describe how your project outcomes will enhance sustainable use of natural resources while providing new goods or services. Identify what organizations may benefit or utilize your findings/product from your project (level of government, private business, non-profits, natural resource or green industry organizations, and/or educational institutions).
2. **Organization/Methodology:** Describe the steps that will be performed to reach the desired goal. Clearly describe why the project's methodology is effective and efficient in pursuing its objectives.
3. **Product:** Provide a detailed description of the deliverable(s) and identify the target audience.
4. **Project Evaluation:** What criteria will you use to judge the success of your project?
5. **Experience/Personnel/Adequacy of Resources:** Describe the experience and training in the fields relating to the project and any other qualifications that pertain to the quality of the product. Are adequate resources (e.g., personnel, facilities, equipment, supplies, and time) available to carry out the project?
6. **Collaboration:** Describe how your project involves partners across departments, units, and colleges, and/or with external organizations and provides opportunities for undergraduate student involvement in projects as appropriate.
7. **Budget and Funding:** Use the attached budget sheet. The proposal should include costs of development and implementation of the project (such as, but not limited to, summer salary, other salary, equipment/supply needs, and/or travel costs). The budget sheet should note funding requests, institutional costs (match, if applicable) and other costs relevant to the project. Include a 1-page budget justification with your application. **Budget justification does not count towards the page limit.**
8. **Time line:** Provide a project time line – including implementation and completion. For research proposals, include development of follow-up proposal to outside agency in the time line.