



Building Research Competitiveness within West Virginia and WVU

By: Curt M. Peterson, Associate VP for Research and Economic Development

The state of West Virginia and West Virginia University are working together to increase research competitiveness that will profoundly impact economic development and prosperity within the state. This joint effort includes investment in research infrastructure and increasing competitiveness of faculty applying for external funding.

WVU is the state's flagship, comprehensive doctoral-granting, land-grant University with a faculty dedicated to discovering new knowledge and innovation necessary to fully develop a new and more prosperous economy. As part of a university-wide strategic planning effort, the WVU Strategic Plan for Research and Economic Development is projected to attain total sponsored programs and research awards through FY 2010 of \$200 Million. To achieve this level of funding, it will be necessary to "grow" sponsored programs and research by \$10 Million per year, on average, using FY 2004 (\$140 M) as the benchmark. This is an ambitious goal, but one that must be achieved if WVU is to retain and strengthen its status as a leader of research, innovation, and economic development within the state of West Virginia and to also enhance its leadership in the region and nation.

Working through the WVU Research Corporation, WVU has initiated several programs to increase faculty competitiveness for federal agency funding including: 1) The **Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (PSCoR)** for individual investigators; 2) The **Program to Stimulate Interdisciplinary Research (PSIR)** for clusters of faculty; 3) Significant matching dollars to support major university-wide initiatives and specific programs including **The Nanoscale Science, Engineering and Education Initiative – WV Nano** and **The Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center (HSC) Strategic Research Plan**; 4) The Strategic Plan for Energy and the Environment soon will be

launched; 5) Joint sponsorship with the HSC of grant-writing seminar/workshop programs to increase grant-writing skills and success of faculty applying for federal agency funding; 6) Significant start-up funding for new faculty so they can achieve "early" success in establishing their research programs at WVU and obtaining federal agency awards.

Working through WVEPSCoR (West Virginia Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), the State is overseeing federal agency EPSCoR programs that provide significant opportunities for grant funding in WV. In the first half of 2006, faculty at WVU will have received new grant awards from the Department of Defense (DOD), the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Science Foundation (NSF). In addition, WVEPSCoR oversees \$4.5 M annually in lottery proceeds that will be used to support the new NSF award to build research infrastructure. Also new grant solicitations such as the **EPSCoR Research Grant Initiative Program** (five PIs at WVU will receive awards up to \$50 K each during 2006 to support planning grants that could lead to new research thrusts or clusters) and the **EPSCoR Research Challenge Grants (RCG) Program** provide opportunities for WVU faculty to implement new competitive centers of research and innovation important for continued workforce and economic development in the state of West Virginia.

These combined efforts by WVU and the State will lead to increased competitiveness of WVU faculty and propel the WVU research enterprise in leading West Virginia to a new and prosperous economy.

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EVENTS

2006 Spring National SBIR/STTR Conference will be held May 15-18, 2006 in Louisville, KY. For more information please contact Sharon DelaBarre at (360) 683-5742 or sbir@dbamlg.com.

How to Start a Business in West Virginia Workshop sponsored by the West Virginia Small Business Development Center will be held May 25, 2006 at CTC Shepherd, 400 W. Stephen Street, Martinsburg, WV. For more information please contact WWSBDC at (800) 982-7232.

Northern Ohio Energy Management 2006 Conference will be held at the John S. Knight Convention Center, June 6-7, 2006 in Akron, Ohio. For more information or to register, please call Jessica Bayles at (216) 361-3100.

West Virginia Manufacturers Association Annual Meeting will be held June 11-13, 2006 at Snowshoe Mountain Resort in Davis, WV. To register, or for more information, please call (304) 342-2123.

Steam System Management webcast, sponsored by the US DOE "Save Energy Now" Initiative, will be held on June 14, 2006 at 12:00 pm EDT. To register, please log on the <http://iac.rutgers.edu/lectures2006>.

Great Energy Saving Opportunity:

Process Heating Assessment Industrial Training presented by the U.S. Department of Energy will be held Wednesday, May 17, 2006 at the WVU Parkersburg Caperton Center for Applied Technology in Parkersburg, WV. For further information and questions, contact Kathleen Cullen at Kathleen.Cullen@mail.wvu.edu or (304) 293-2867 ext. 5426.

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If you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please email Kathleen Cullen

Co-Funding Opportunities for IOF-WV Research Teams

Announcement	Due Dates	Funding
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Collaborative Science and Technology Network for Sustainability http://grants.gov	Now Open (Request for Proposals) May 17, 2006 (Proposals Due)	\$2,000,000 in total funding anticipated for up to 7 awards
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency SBIR http://sbirworld.com	Now Open (Request for Proposals) May 24, 2006 (Proposals Due)	\$100,000 for phase I awards \$100,000 to \$750,00 for Phase II Awards
U.S. Department of Energy Building Technologies State Energy Outreach and Deployment State Energy Program (SEP) Special Projects http://e-center.doe.gov	Now Open (Request for Proposals) May 24, 2006 (Proposals Due)	\$3,300,000 in total funding anticipated for 8 to 15 awards
U.S. Department of Energy State Partnerships to Accelerate Industrial Energy Efficiency and "Save Energy Now" http://e-center.doe.gov	Now Open (Request for Proposals) May 31, 2006 (Proposals Due)	\$1,000,000 in total funding anticipated for 5 to 8 awards
U.S. Department of Energy Central Hydrogen Production Pathway http://e-center.doe.gov	Now Open (Request for Proposals) June 8, 2006 (Proposals Due)	\$5,000,000 in total funding anticipated
National Science Foundation SBIR/STTR Phase I: Advanced Materials, Emerging Opportunities, Information Technology, Manufacturing Innovation www.nsf.gov	Now Open (Request for Proposals) June 13, 2006 (Proposals Due)	\$16,250,000 in total funding anticipated
U.S. Department of Energy Support of Advanced Coal Research at U.S. Colleges and Universities http://e-center.doe.gov	Now Open (Request for Proposals) June 14, 2006 (Proposals Due)	\$2,760,000 in total funding anticipated
U.S. Department of Energy Commercial Demonstration of an Integrated Biorefinery System for Production of Liquid Transportation Biofuels, Biobased Chemicals, Substitutes for Petroleum-based Feedstocks and Products, and Biomass-based Heat/Power http://e-center.doe.gov	Now Open (Request for Proposals) March 30, 2006 (Letter of Intent Due) August 10, 2006 (Proposals Due)	\$53,000,000 in total funding anticipated for up to 3 awards
National Science Foundation Partnerships for Innovation www.nsf.gov	Now Open (Request for Proposals) June 28, 2006 (Letter of Intent Due) August 30, 2006 (Proposals Due)	\$9,000,000 in total funding anticipated for 10 to 15 awards
U.S. Department of Energy Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DOE/EPSCoR) Implementation Awards http://e-center.doe.gov	Now Open (Request for Proposals) September 27, 2006 (Proposals Due)	\$3,000,000 in total funding anticipated for 4 to 6 awards
U.S. Department of Energy Basic Research for Solar Energy Utilization http://e-center.doe.gov	Now Open (Request for Proposals) June 5, 2006 (Letter of Intent Due) November 14, 2006 (Proposals Due)	\$20,000,000 in total funding anticipated



West Virginia Development Office

Industrial Technologies Program
Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
U.S. Department of Energy

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