**NSF Opportunities**

**Presentation by Donald Chinn on October 27, 2017 at the CTC meeting at UW Tacoma**

**General information**

The NSF (National Science Foundation) provides a number of opportunities for faculty to engage in research projects in STEM areas (and in particular computer science). The NSF is organized into a number of Directorates. The programs that we are most likely to be interested in are the ones in the Education and Human Resources (EHR). Within EHR, there is a Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE).

Within DUE, there are four ongoing programs that are likely to be of interest. (Each program is renewed each year, and there is a small probability that a program will be cancelled, but the ones below have been around in some form for a while.)

**Advanced Technical Education (ATE).** This program focuses on advanced training of technicians in technology fields. Two important points about this program: there needs to be some tie between a two-year college (which must take the lead on the project) and a four-year university, and a successful application needs to link the activities of the project to industry needs. Grants can be projects (up to $600,000 over 3 years, or a small/new project for up to $225,000) to centers (up to $5 million over 5 years), or a resource center (up to $600,000 over 3 years). Application deadlines are around the same time each year. This year, the deadline is October 4, 2018.

**Scholarships in STEM (S-STEM.).** This program supports STEM undergraduates with financial need via scholarships. The focus here is on student success, and so measures of success are important here. As a rule of thumb, 60% of the grant money needs to go to the actual scholarships, and 40% goes to student support, administration, research, and evaluation. There are three tracks of this program, based on the scale of the proposal. The deadline this year is March 28, 2018.

**Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE).** From the NSF site: “EHR also seeks to support projects that have high potential for broader societal impacts, including improved diversity of students and instructors participating in STEM education, professional development for instructors to ensure adoption of new and effective pedagogical techniques that meet the changing needs of students, and projects that promote institutional partnerships for collaborative research and development. IUSE: EHR especially welcomes proposals that will pair well with the efforts of NSF INCLUDES (<https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/nsfincludes/index.jsp>) to develop STEM talent from all sectors and groups in our society.  Collaborations are encouraged between IUSE proposals and existing INCLUDES projects, provided the collaboration strengthens both projects.” The deadline for “Development and Implementation Tier” projects is Dec. 12, 2017, and the “Exploration and Design Tier” has a sliding window deadline of Oct. 1, 2017 to Oct. 1, 2018.

**Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program.** This program’s goal is to encourage people in STEM fields to become K-12 teachers. There are a number of different tracks. The deadline this year is August 28, 2018.

There are also cross-directorate STEM education programs.

One big tip regarding applying for and getting grants: talk to the “cognizant program officer” for advice on applying and so that when your application appears, the officer knows who you are.

For more information, go to [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov). For information on the four programs above, go to the NSF site, click on EHR (under the Research Areas menu), then click on DUE, then click on Programs.

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Below is a grant opportunity led by Green River Community College. The goal is to increase enrollment of underrepresented minorities in STEM fields in the South Sound area. By now, the project might be underway, but if you are interested, you can contact Matthew Swenson.

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**From:** Turan Kayaoglu [mailto:turan@uw.edu]   
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 11, 2017 9:25 AM  
**To:** RAJENDRA KATTI <rajkatti@uw.edu>; Anne C Bartlett <anne01@uw.edu>; Joyce Dinglasan-Panlilio <jdingpan@uw.edu>; ERICA T. CLINE <ecline@uw.edu>; Joel Larson <jilarson@uw.edu>; Amanda M. Figueroa <ambruner@uw.edu>  
**Cc:** Jill M Purdy <jpurdy@uw.edu>  
**Subject:** Collaborate with South Sound colleges for an NSF LSAMP planning grant for STEM education?

Dear Colleagues,

Following the NSF meeting on Friday, I received a request from a colleague from Green River College, Matthew Swenson. He wants to lead a community college initiative for an NSF funding to increase the number of students from underrepresented minorities in the South Sound into STEM fields and help them to get a four year degree. Colleges will be in driving seat for this but they need to coordinate/collaborate with a four year institution. Since the UW Tacoma is their top transfer institution, he's inquiring about our interest. The initial commitment is small: to prepare a planning grant of up to $150,000.

Please see the emails below for details.

Note that UW currently has a [similar grant](http://depts.washington.edu/lsamp/)(but covers PNW and includes major universities). The one that my Green River colleague wants to focus on South Sound colleges and these colleges will be in the lead with the UW Tacoma is taking (at least at this stage) a supporting role.

My question: do you think we should pursue this collaboration? If we're to pursue, who at the UW Tacoma is the best position to involve for the planning grant. The Office of Research will be happy to provide support, but given the content, I think you are better positioned to sit around the table with colleagues from the colleges in the region.

Let me know--or better, Matthew--know if you have any questions. I have worked with him in the past and he's very professional to work with and he gets things done.

Thank you,

Turan

**From:** Matthew Swenson <[mswenson@greenriver.edu](mailto:mswenson@greenriver.edu)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 4:07 PM  
**To:** Turan Kayaoglu; Barry Robinson  
**Subject:** RE: NSF Day - & LSAMP planning grant?

Thanks, Turan! My colleagues and I would be happy to answer any questions to facilitate UW-T’s consideration of this opportunity. Anyone at UW-T’s also welcome to join the conference call on Thursday at 11:30 with the PI of [a funded B2B planning grant](https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1612540). [Here’s a link to the associated proposal narrative](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9F7dCUGGDdjSExkUkt1eThaQjQ/view?usp=sharing). Here’s the conference call info:

* Call into the conference bridge:  **(253) 288-3344**
* You will be greeted and asked to enter your access code
* Enter access code:  **201415**
* You will be transferred into the conference call

P.S. GRC, UW-T, Renton Technical College, and the Kent School District are engaged in a long-term effort to streamline transfer pathways from high school to university. As I recall, Amanda Figueroa and DJ Crisostomo in UW-T’s Department of Student Transitions are involved. The proposed LSAMP B2B Alliance would be complementary, but I don’t perceive a major overlap, as the B2B Alliance’s scope would be limited to STEM transfer programs. Just FYI…

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**From:** Turan Kayaoglu [<mailto:turan@uw.edu>]   
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 3:53 PM  
**To:** Matthew Swenson; Barry Robinson  
**Subject:** Re: NSF Day - & LSAMP planning grant?

Hi Matthew,

Thank you for the detailed information. I have shared your inquiry with our Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs to see if she's supportive and who she thinks best positioned at UW Tacoma to involve.

I will let you know as soon as I hear.

Turan

**TURAN KAYAOGLU**

Professor & Associate Vice Chancellor for Research

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**From:** Matthew Swenson <[mswenson@greenriver.edu](mailto:mswenson@greenriver.edu)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 2:05:26 PM  
**To:** Turan Kayaoglu; Barry Robinson  
**Subject:** FW: NSF Day - & LSAMP planning grant?

Hello, Turan – here are answers to your questions. I apologize for being tardy! I’ve copied Dr. Barry Robinson, the STEM instructional dean at GRC with whom I’ve discussed NSF’s LSAMP B2B program in the past.

**Q1: Since B2B alliances are composed of community colleges, what's the role of universities?**

The goal of B2B Alliances is to significantly increase student transfer rates at participating community colleges into STEM fields at four-year institutions. [I’ve compiled a few funded B2B Alliances’ details here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fEcJAOqEvLdF8lqtncy0tBJJJpzDLCuHMcIPXdkkpBg/edit?usp=sharing). This requires the advice and support of the universities which are the top transfer destinations of participating colleges’ graduates. To quote the [LSAMP program solicitation](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9F7dCUGGDdjdlc5WGlWSFVPYTQ/view?usp=sharing):

Because the LSAMP program is focused on baccalaureate degree attainment, B2B projects must track the number of community college students who successfully transfer into STEM programs at four-year institutions. Non-funded formal partnerships with four-year institutions are strongly encouraged. Letters of collaboration with partner academic institutions or other entities must be included as supplementary documents.

The immediate, critical question is: **Is UW-T interested in participating in increasing the enrollment and success of under-represented STEM transfer students from local community colleges?** If yes, then it’s logical for UW-T to participate in an advisory role for a local B2B Alliance. If no, then we won’t pursue this any further, because UW-T is the top transfer destination for GRC students.

**Q2: In particular, what should be the role/responsibility of UW Tacoma for the pre-alliance planning grant and, if that's funded, for B2B alliance?**

The primary role/responsibility of UW-T for a B2B Pre-Alliance Planning grant would be to (1) participate in pertinent planning meetings (I’ll check with NSF staff on whether we can budget funds for UW-T faculty/staff to participate); (2) provide essential data (e.g., on the aggregated success of STEM transfer students from participating colleges), as appropriate and practical; and (3) *if* the proposed B2B Alliance which is generated via this project meets with UW-T’s approval, to continue to support the participating colleges’ development and submission of a full B2B Alliance proposal. This follows the[LSAMP program solicitation](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9F7dCUGGDdjdlc5WGlWSFVPYTQ/view?usp=sharing):

To increase the number of alliances around the country, the pre-alliance opportunity is available for institutions seeking alliance funding, including B2B alliances, to address the goals of the LSAMP program. Institutions that have considered forming an alliance, begun compiling enrollment and degree data to assess the feasibility of forming an alliance, and garnered support from administrators and STEM faculty, are highly encouraged to seek pre-alliance support.

Funding may be used to conduct needs assessments, conduct organizational planning meetings, attend broadening participation planning meetings/conferences, etc. The planning proposal must demonstrate, at a minimum, the above efforts. If awarded pre-alliance support, NSF expects that a full alliance proposal will be submitted to the LSAMP program at the end of the planning period.

I’ve schedule a conference call at 11:30 on Thursday with Dr. Victor Vialpando, the PI for [the Community College of Aurora’s B2B Pre-Alliance Planning grant](https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1612540). You and any colleagues who may be interested are welcome to participate! [Victor also generously shared the Project Description submitted with his proposal](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9F7dCUGGDdjSExkUkt1eThaQjQ/view?usp%3Dsharing&sa=D&ust=1507669700357000&usg=AFQjCNGoWWLqMFalshS87rr5rQ9uLuGUdA).

**[Implied Q3: What’s the relationship between this and last week’s NSF Day workshop at UW-T?]**

The aim of a B2B Alliance is to improve the rates at which under-represented STEM students successfully transfer to university STEM programs, earn STEM undergraduate degrees, and continue to either graduate study or STEM employment.

B2B Alliances have “wide latitude” to determine how to achieve this. The B2B Pre-Alliance Planning grant could, for example, focus on how to strengthen the basic skills required for community college STEM students to perform undergraduate research; and how to best support the development and implementation of university-level REU programs, as these would offer opportunities for community college STEM students to engage in research activities. The grant could also include assessing the related professional development needs of community college STEM faculty, who would eventually participate in the proposed B2B Alliance. It could even explore the potential of articulating community colleges’ applied baccalaureate (BAS) degrees with STEM graduate programs. For example, UW-T’s MS in IT degree program has a direct admission agreement with GRC’s BAS degrees in IT.

We don’t have to confirm the details of these activities in a B2B Pre-Alliance Planning grant proposal! We do, though, have to state the premises and themes of the envisioned B2B Alliance: e.g., a focus upon undergraduate research. If there are other key topics which emerged from last Friday’s NSF Day workshop, we can additionally/alternately propose to address them. This is a decision for my betters (i.e., you and Barry). However, I think that undergraduate research is a logical focus, for many reasons which I’d happily explain, if this email wasn’t already far too long.

What do you think? Please feel free to reply with more questions or to call (206-853-1585), if desired! Barry and I aren’t presuming UW-T’s interest. That said, UW-T’s involvement is a prerequisite, if GRC is to move forward with developing a B2B Pre-Alliance Planning grant proposal…so we’re happy to do whatever’s needed, for you and your colleagues to reach a decision as soon as possible. Thanks, Turan!

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**From:** Matthew Swenson   
**Sent:** Monday, October 09, 2017 5:28 PM  
**To:** Turan Kayaoglu  
**Subject:** RE: NSF Day - & LSAMP planning grant?

Thanks, Turan! I’ve read the LSAMP program solicitation a couple of times, but with your permission, I’ll scrutinize it and the associated LSAMP applicant resources closely on Tuesday morning, and respond to your questions by noon on Tuesday. In particular, I’ll review some funded LSAMP B2B project abstracts, to gain a better idea of how universities have participated in associated planning processes. More soon!

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**From:** Turan Kayaoglu [<mailto:turan@uw.edu>]   
**Sent:** Monday, October 9, 2017 5:09 PM  
**To:** Matthew Swenson <[mswenson@greenriver.edu](mailto:mswenson@greenriver.edu)>  
**Subject:** Re: NSF Day - & LSAMP planning grant?

Hi Matthew,

Thank you for the feedback and thank you for all the help your provided for this event. We could not make it a regional event (with all colleges and universities) without your network.

This is interesting and I'd like to learn more about it. Since B2B alliances are composed of community colleges, what's the role of universities? In particular, what should be the role/responsibility of UW Tacoma for the pre-alliance planning grant and, if that's funded, for B2B alliance?

If I know what's expected from UW Tacoma, I can think which office at UW Tacoma has the authority to make a decision about it.

Thank you,

Turan

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**From:** Matthew Swenson <[mswenson@greenriver.edu](mailto:mswenson@greenriver.edu)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 9, 2017 12:06:05 PM  
**To:** Turan Kayaoglu  
**Subject:** RE: NSF Day - & LSAMP planning grant?

Hi, Turan – congratulations on a very successful event last Friday! I’m sorry that I had to leave early to take my daughter to an appointment. I can’t imagine that the portion of the agenda which I missed was any less well-received than what I observed.

There are many ways to follow up on last Friday’s event, of course; but one time-sensitive option on which I’d like your opinion is [NSF’s Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program](https://nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13646). In particular, the LSAMP program has a “Bridges to the Baccalaureate Alliance” category (see below), for two or more community colleges to apply for activities related to increasing the access and success of transfer students at local four-year universities. There’s a sub-category of “Pre-Alliance Planning” proposals for colleges and universities to perform the collaborative work required to prepare a full proposal. These planning grants are for up to $125,000 over 18 months.

Do you think that applying for an LSAMP planning grant would be a logical way to build on the momentum of last Friday’s event? If so, my GRC colleagues and I can promptly make contact with our counterparts at nearby community college (e.g., Olympic, Pierce, South Puget Sound, and Tacoma) with STEM transfer degree programs, to gauge their interest in participating. I don’t think that this would conflict with [UW-Seattle’s LSAMP Alliance grant](http://depts.washington.edu/lsamp/), as it’s in a different category, and UW wouldn’t be the lead applicant.

This all predicated, though, on whether UW-T is interested in this option! If you could let me know as soon as convenient, I’d appreciate it. My colleagues and I won’t contact other community colleges until we’ve heard from you. I don’t mean to presume UW-T’s interest – if this isn’t appealing or practical to pursue, there will be other options in the future. I’m only raising this first because its submission deadline is November 17th. Thanks very much, and kudos again on your success!

[excerpted from [LSAMP program solicitation]](https://nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17579/nsf17579.htm)

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| --- |
| **Pre-alliance and other Planning Grants**  To increase the number of alliances around the country, the pre-alliance opportunity is available for institutions seeking alliance funding, including B2B alliances, to address the goals of the LSAMP program. Institutions that have considered forming an alliance, begun compiling enrollment and degree data to assess the feasibility of forming an alliance, and garnered support from administrators and STEM faculty, are highly encouraged to seek pre-alliance support.  Funding may be used to conduct needs assessments, conduct organizational planning meetings, attend broadening participation planning meetings/conferences, etc. The planning proposal must demonstrate, at a minimum, the above efforts. If awarded pre-alliance support, NSF expects that a full alliance proposal will be submitted to the LSAMP program at the end of the planning period.  **Funds are not allowed under this project type for student support or to begin STEM recruitment and retention intervention programs.**  Prospective PIs are encouraged to contact LSAMP program officers to discuss pre-alliance planning activities.  **Pre-Alliance Planning Awards**  Number of awards: Up to 5 annually   * Full Proposal Deadline: November 17, 2017 * Project Length: 18 months * Award size: Up to $125,000 * Grant Administration: Pre-award alliances will be managed by NSF as standard grants |
| **C. Bridge to the Baccalaureate (B2B)**  (For Community Colleges Only)  Community colleges are a valuable resource that contributes to the diversity of the STEM workforce. The Bridge to the Baccalaureate (B2B) alliances are partnerships of community colleges funded up to three years to develop comprehensive programs that facilitate the successful transfer of students historically underrepresented in STEM to four-year institutions in pursuit of STEM baccalaureate degrees.  **B2B Alliance Structure:** B2B Alliances are composed entirely of two-year colleges. The lead institution must award associate-level degrees in a STEM or STEM-related field. Associate-level degree-granting colleges that award four-year degrees in workforce development areas may be eligible to serve as the lead institution of a B2B alliance. Four-year colleges that award STEM baccalaureate degrees are ineligible to serve as lead institutions for B2B alliances but may be included as partner institutions of the alliances for articulation purposes. Funds are not budgeted for four-year institutions in B2B projects.  B2B alliances should focus on innovative, evidence-based recruitment and retention strategies at the community college level with particular emphasis on strengthening STEM skills at the pre-college, freshman and sophomore levels in STEM disciplines.  **Expectations of B2B Alliances:** The NSF LSAMP program provides wide latitude to proposers in designing their projects. Community college strategies, components, and interventions aimed at strengthening the transfer to four-year STEM degree programs are supported through these alliances. Proposers for B2B support must present evidence of strong articulation and transfer agreements with four-year institutions. All new proposers must commit to a significant increase in student transfer into STEM fields at four-year institutions and justify the level of increase they define as significant. A clear plan of action to significantly increase the transfer of students historically underrepresented in STEM that is supported by data and tracking student outcomes is essential for a highly competitive proposal. Subsequent support will be contingent on evidence of success in areas of individual student recruitment, retention, and progression to four-year STEM degree programs.  All B2B proposal requests for funding must describe plans for tracking student progress over the course of funding and post-award. Because the LSAMP program is focused on baccalaureate degree attainment, B2B projects must track the number of community college students who successfully transfer into STEM programs at four-year institutions. Non-funded formal partnerships with four-year institutions are strongly encouraged. Letters of collaboration with partner academic institutions or other entities must be included as supplementary documents.  Community college partners must be budgeted as subawardees if not the lead institution for the B2B alliance.  Institutions submitting new proposals for this project type should begin the title of the proposal with the following: **Louis Stokes B2B Alliance: (Name of Alliance)**.  **Bridge to the Baccalaureate (B2B)**  Number of awards: Up to 5 annually   * Full Proposal Deadline: November 16, 2018 * Project Length: 3 Years * Award size: Up to $1.5M * Grant Administration: B2B Awards will be managed by NSF as standard grants |

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**From:** Turan Kayaoglu [<mailto:turan@uw.edu>]   
**Sent:** Friday, October 6, 2017 4:38 PM  
**To:** Turan Kayaoglu <[turan@uw.edu](mailto:turan@uw.edu)>  
**Subject:** NSF Presentation Slides

Dear All (BCC'd)

Please find the attached slides from the NSF Day presentations today.

Dr. Stephanie August wanted me to remind that "We ask that participants do not post these on any server, and that they not distribute nor post the proposals."

Thank you,

Turan

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