



**NCWIT Academic Alliance
SEED FUND AWARD ROUND7
Sponsored by Microsoft Research**

**Call for Proposals
Deadline: October 18, 2010**



Does your institution have an innovative approach for broadening the participation of women and under-represented populations in CS and IT studies that could benefit from seed funding? Help us help you fund them!

The deadline for submission of proposals for Round 7 of the NCWIT Academic Alliance (AA) Seed Fund program, funded by Microsoft Research, is October 18, 2010.

ABOUT THE NCWIT ACADEMIC ALLIANCE SEED FUND AWARD

The NCWIT Academic Alliance Seed Fund awards members of NCWIT's AA with start-up funds (up to \$10,000 per project) to develop and implement initiatives for recruiting women and under-represented populations in computing and information technology.

The Seed Fund was initiated in 2007, funded by Microsoft Research. Nineteen AA member organizations have received more than \$265,000 over the first six rounds. For more information about the previous NCWIT Seed Fund winning proposals, go to:

<http://www.ncwit.org/work.awards.seed.html>

NCWIT AA members are able to view complete winning proposals from previous rounds, by going to the AA Member Site Document Center listings for "Round 1 Seed Proposals", "Round 2 Seed Fund Proposals," etc.

NEW: ANNOUNCING STRATEGIC FOCUS FOR ROUND 7 SEED FUND!!

This year's call for proposals poses a strategic focus on ***creative initiatives for recruiting women and under-represented populations into your computing related majors.***

Submissions are encouraged to make use of existing practices or programs that will recruit women into computing programs, and winners are eligible to receive up to \$10K to implement your project and measure its impact on your enrollment. Please note that while other proposal topics will continue to be considered, submissions focused on recruiting women and under-represented populations into computing are strongly encouraged and will be given priority.

The objective is to award proposals from a variety of institutional settings, including community colleges, minority-serving institutions, undergraduate institutions and research institutions.

PROPOSAL CONTENT AND FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Maximum three-page proposal with the following section headings:
 - Project Overview



- Alignment with NCWIT Promising Practice focused on recruiting women or under-represented populations into computing (whether Program-in-a-Box or Practice sheet) or existing program
- Implementation plan and schedule
- Budget justification
- Sustainability plan
- Evaluation plan

Proposals should explain not just what is being done, but why. The why should relate either to NCWIT Promising Practices (i.e., Programs-in-a-Box or Promising Practice Sheets) or to some other research, or at least have some theoretical grounding. In other words, there should be a reason for trying what is proposed.

2. Signed letter of support from the dean or department chair that expresses institutional commitment to sustaining financial support for a Seed-funded project (Note: This is in addition to the three-page proposal and can be attached in a single document.)

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND DEADLINE

Submit proposal electronically as PDF file on or before **October 18, 2010**

Submit to Academic Alliance Program Manager, kimberly.kalahar@colorado.edu

REVIEW CRITERIA

- Relationship to one or more NCWIT Promising Practices and/or Programs-in-a-Box or existing program focused on recruiting women or under-represented populations into computing
- Likelihood of successful implementation
- Feasible evaluation plan
- Likelihood of producing useful information about the conditions necessary for success (i.e., useful to NCWIT and its members)
- Quality/Amount of institutional support
- Type of institution (variety of institutions will be selected)

In addition:

- Award recipients should show commitment to a long-term approach to institutional reform.
- Award recipients should develop a plan to obtain sustainable funding for continuing successful projects that will not depend upon Microsoft to support the program on an on-going basis. Priority will be given to those proposals that have firm commitment for sustaining funds, a priori, assuming that the program's evaluation deems it a success.

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications are peer-reviewed. The Seed Fund Review Committee makes ranked recommendations to the Seed Fund Steering Committee. The Steering Committee and Review Committee Chair will approve the final awards based on rankings and further consultations with reviewers. Seed Fund committees are made up of Academic Alliance Members, NCWIT Social Scientists and members of the NCWIT Social Sciences Advisory Board.



Seed Fund proposals should incorporate practices considered by NCWIT, or other respected researchers, to be evidence-based and effective. A list of NCWIT Promising Practices can be found on <http://www.ncwit.org/resources.res.html>

Reviewers in Round 7 will be looking for approaches that implement an existing practice or program focused on recruiting women or under-represented populations into computing. While reviewers will be expecting use of evidence-based practices, they will also be looking for innovative approaches for recruitment of females and other under-represented populations. Proposals will also be reviewed for well-conceived, feasible evaluation plans.

A summary of previous award-winning programs and proposals can be viewed at: <http://www.ncwit.org/work.awards.seed.html>

SEED FUND AWARD RECIPIENT AGREEMENTS

- Attribution to award sponsors is important for continued funding of the NCWIT Seed Fund Program. We ask award recipients to advertise their programs and acknowledge Microsoft Research and NCWIT with a Press Release or award announcement web page.
- Award winners will be provided a consultation with a member of the NCWIT Social Science Advisory Board (via the free SSAB Consultation Service) on their evaluation plan and its implementation.
- Once begun, we ask that the Seed Fund program maintain an up-to-date home page on the institution's website which includes a program description, the project status and sponsor attribution.
- Award winners will be asked to report on their program's progress to NCWIT at least once per year in the form of a short report; they will also be asked to submit a blog on the NCWIT site. Other opportunities for sharing information about winners' programs will also be made available. Once the program has progressed sufficiently, award winners will be asked to make a presentation at the annual NCWIT Academic Alliance meeting.
- Program Reporting: NCWIT is working across Seed Fund programs to collect results and measure success to report back to our funder, Microsoft Research, and the NCWIT community. Metrics allow NCWIT to determine success and replicate promising practices. We ask the Seed Fund Programs to partner with NCWIT to track certain types of measures (as applicable to the project) by completing a short survey annually containing the following questions:
 1. Who is served (e.g., # K-12 students, grades, # undergraduate students involved, # graduate students involved, # teachers, # parents, # schools)
 2. Demographics (i.e., gender, race/ethnicity, free/reduced lunch status of K-12 students, etc.)
 3. Attrition numbers for the program (i.e., # enrolled initially vs. # who completed)
 4. Progress on program-specific outcome objectives
 5. Which NCWIT Practice Sheets or Boxes have been used or consulted in conducting the program
 6. Most interesting results (positive or negative) and lessons learned
 7. Whether or not the project is on schedule and what issues have been encountered



NCWIT ROUND 7 SEED FUND AWARD APPLICATION SUMMARY

- Deadline: October 18, 2010
Submission POC: AA Program Manager (kimberly.kalahar@colorado.edu)
Budget: Requests may be made for up to \$10K
Format: Electronic submission (pdf), maximum three pages
Checklist:
- Project description
 - Relationship to NCWIT Promising Practices/Boxes or existing program
 - Implementation plan and schedule
 - Budget justification
 - Sustainability plan
 - Evaluation plan
 - Letter of institutional support from department chair or dean that confirms sustainability for projects deemed successful (not part of 3 page limit)

NCWIT SEED FUND FAQ

1. *Who is eligible to apply?*

Any school that is a member of the NCWIT Academic Alliance. All types and sizes of schools are encouraged to apply. View here to learn more about the AA and become a member: <http://www.ncwit.org/alliance.academic.html>

2. *What kind of projects are within the scope of the fund?*

Projects can focus on any type of intervention program and/or curricula that further NCWIT goals of recruiting women and under-represented populations in computing and information technology, and that relate to one or more of the NCWIT Promising Practices (whether Program-in-a-Box or Practice Sheet).

3. *Will multiple proposal applications be considered from the same institution?*

Yes. Potential synergies or overlaps between proposals, however, should be addressed and will be material to the review process.

4. *Are these funds subject to university overhead?*

No. All projects are funded as gifts.

5. *Can multiple institutions submit a shared proposal?*

A regional/multi-institutional project is acceptable but must remain within the stated funding limits.

6. *When will decisions be made?*

We anticipate that the decisions will be made within 2 months after the submission deadline.

7. *How will decisions be made?*

The Peer-Review Committee will make recommendations to the Seed Fund Steering Committee.