SUN FACULTY DEVELOPMENT GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Skidmore Union Network (SUN): Supporting Women Faculty in STEM at Liberal Arts Colleges.

SUN ADVANCED EDUCATION GRANT

Skidmore College and Union College, with the National Science Foundation’s ADVANCE Program, invite female associate professors to apply for grants to support evolving scholarship and exploration of new sub-disciplines. SUN Advanced Education Grants are opportunities for women to pursue advanced training that will enhance scholarly productivity and promotion to the rank of full professor, resulting in a more balanced gender ratio among faculty in the STEM disciplines.

Upon receiving tenure, women often take on new responsibilities and leadership roles, such as pursuing new teaching initiatives or chairing a department or committee, that redirect their energies away from research and scholarship. Over the course of a career, scholarship may also move from the focus of Ph.D. studies into new subfields. In the STEM disciplines, where the knowledge base, methodologies and technologies constantly grow and change, access to advanced training can be critical to achieving and maintaining scholarly competitiveness and productivity, particularly after a hiatus or change of focus in research. To address this need, Advanced Education Grants will support participation in coursework, professional workshops, and research collaborations in which women will acquire and refine the skills necessary for continued scholarly achievement.

ELIGIBILITY: We invite applications from female tenured associate professors who hold a full-time or shared appointment in the fields of science (including social science), technology, engineering or math (STEM). Faculty whose appointments are in the following Union College departments and programs are eligible to apply: Anthropology, Biology, Bioengineering, Chemistry, Computer Science, Economics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Geology, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

AWARDS: Funds will be awarded competitively to women whose scholarship will be enhanced by advanced training in the form of coursework, professional workshops, or research collaboration. Proposals may request modest levels of support (less than $100) or up to $7,500 for more comprehensive projects of exceptional merit. Due to limited resources and the wish of the Committee to provide funds for a number of deserving proposals, we anticipate that awards will typically be capped at $2,000-$3,000, and no award will exceed $7,500. The decision to provide partial support of projects requiring more than $7,500 will be influenced by evidence that such support will indeed help launch the related projects and that faculty can and will find the additional funds needed to finance the work they propose.

DEADLINE FOR SPRING 2010 APPLICATIONS: April 2, 2010

(for grant period of June 2010—January 2011)

Please submit an electronic version of your completed application, a current CV and, if you are working with a research collaborator, a statement from your partnering scholar on willingness to collaborate to Carol Cichy, in the office of the Dean of Academic Departments, Room 100, Science & Engineering Building, Union College.
CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF GRANT APPLICATIONS/PROPOSALS

The SUN Faculty Development Committee will first consider the excellence of the faculty development proposals. The SUN Faculty Development Committee will award grants on the basis of the following criteria:

1. A proposal will be evaluated relative to its potential to enhance the evolving scholarship and productivity of the recipient as well as the contribution that any endeavor might make to its respective field. In certain instances, the committee may request the names of experts in the discipline to consult for advice on the proposal’s merits.

2. Priority will be given to proposals for new collaborations, or exploration of methods or fields of research that are new to the applicant.

3. All grant recipients must be faculty at Skidmore College or Union College. Only tenured women associate professors in full-time or shared appointments are eligible for Advanced Education Grants; priority will be given to women who have been in rank for seven or more years.

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES

1. Travel reimbursement may cover the cost of transportation, lodging, and food. PLEASE NOTE: Original, ITEMIZED receipts for all items $10 or over must be attached to expense reports. Your credit card bill and the receipt showing the total amount paid for restaurant charges are not considered adequate proof of purchase.

2. Projects resulting in production or publication shall carry no obligation for repayment. It is expected, however, that grantee(s) will acknowledge support of the Skidmore Union Network and the National Science Foundation ADVANCE program on exhibitions or publications.

3. Any equipment purchased under the approved research grant will remain the property of Skidmore College or Union College after the grant period is completed.

4. Proposals that involve human subjects or the use of human tissues are subject to the requirements of the College’s Human Subjects Research Review Committee (HSRC). Guidelines and forms can be found here: http://www.union.edu/PUBLIC/SOCDEPT/cotterd/hsrb/www/index.html. Proposals that involve the use of vertebrate animals are subject to the requirements of the College’s Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC guidelines and forms are available by contacting the IACUC chairperson, http://www.union.edu/academic_depts/biology/AnimalCare.php). HSRC and IACUC approvals are not a prerequisite to submitting a SUN Faculty Development Grant, but are required prior to the commencement of the research.

5. The SUN Faculty Development Committee will advise recipients of awards via campus mail, and will announce awards by posting the list of recipients and their project titles on the SUN Network website.

6. Deliberations of the SUN Faculty Development Committee are strictly confidential. All inquiries regarding awards shall be addressed to the chairperson.

7. All financial documentation and itemized receipts must be submitted by the end of the grant period. The final narrative report should be submitted no later than three months after the end of the grant period. Failure to do so may result in advances being treated as taxable income and will disqualify the recipient from consideration for all future grants awarded by the SUN Faculty Development Committee. Awardees must agree to participate in the assessment of this program; such participation might include responding to surveys or participation in an interview.