



Southeastern Virginia Partnership for Regional Transformation

FUNDED BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Opportunity Inc, on behalf of The Southeastern Virginia Partnership for Regional Transformation (SEVA-PORT), is seeking proposals from institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) within the SEVA-PORT region (Southside Hampton Roads, the Peninsula and Crater regions) to develop creative, innovative, well-conceived projects that accomplish one or more of the following:

- Increase the enrollment and successful completion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) courses. Activities to accomplish this goal include developing and implementing support programs and curriculum that encourage and expose students to STEM fields, as well as providing guidance and academic support.
- Create, develop and maintain STEM pathways so that more students successfully transition from education institutions into the workforce. Activities to accomplish this goal include developing and implementing student internships, mentoring programs, and career awareness activities.

SEVA-PORT especially encourages proposals that address the challenges and needs of underrepresented populations in STEM education and workforce development.

Background

The SEVA-PORT initiative seeks to promote regional economic growth by establishing a sustainable talent pipeline infrastructure and responding to business and workforce development needs. In support of this agenda, SEVA-PORT is interested in supporting modeling and simulation (M&S) technologies, as well as activities which promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) disciplines within the education pipeline.

The SEVA-PORT partnership received a \$5 million Department of Labor, Workforce Innovations for Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant in July 2007 and has been launching projects in numerous communities that support growth of the talent pipeline, business development, and the integration of modeling and simulation into the Port industries of transportation, warehousing and distribution (TWD). More information on the SEVA-PORT initiative can be found at www.seva-port.org.

Funding

Up to \$300,000 is being made available for activities funded by this solicitation. An estimated 1-4 proposals may receive funding. A cap of 10% in overhead costs may be included in the total funds being requested. Programs should begin within 30 days of award notification and will be completed by 6/30/10.

Eligibility

SACS accredited institutions within the SEVA-PORT region are invited to apply. WIRED funds are restricted to participants aged 16 and up. For purpose of this funding opportunity, underrepresented populations include women, those with disabilities, and racial and ethnic populations that are underrepresented in STEM fields relative to their numbers in the general population.

Proposal Content Requirements

Proposals are limited to six pages (12-point Arial, single spaced, 1-in margins) and should include a detailed project description, an implementation timeline, specific deliverables, plans for measuring performance and success over time, including clear milestones, and a detailed budget. Plans for sustainability, as well as leveraged resources, should be included.

Selection criteria will be based upon the following:

- Impact on target audiences – number of students served and intensity and duration of the project
- Sustainability – ability to expand and continue the program cost-effectively
- Organizational track record and community/partnership support
- Overall cost, efficient use of funds, and leveraging of other resources

All proposals must be received by 5:00 pm on July 20, 2009. Proposals may be submitted electronically to mrobinson@oihr.org or in person to Opportunity Inc, 500 E. Plume Street, Suite 700, Norfolk VA 23510. It is anticipated that projects could begin as soon as 8/1/09 and continue through 6/30/10. Questions should be directed to Megan Robinson at mrobinson@oihr.org.

The general Terms and Conditions of all Opportunity Inc Requests for Proposals can be found on the Opportunity Inc website located at www.opp-inc.org.