Call for Proposals: National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB) Diversity Initiative

Deadline: Tuesday, October 15, at 5:00pm (local time of submitter)

Submission: All applications should be submitted via email to Caren Matzkin at cmatzkin@oceanleadership.org

Questions: Please contact Caren Matzkin at cmatzkin@oceanleadership.org

With generous support from the Shell Exploration and Production Company, 2014 NOSB Diversity Initiative funds are being provided to engage student populations underrepresented in the sciences through exposure to ocean science and participation in NOSB’s Gulf of Mexico regional bowls serving the states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. This is an open call for proposals to identify and support current hosts of NOSB regional competitions or new institutions interested in engaging underrepresented student populations in science.

Who may apply?
- Current NOSB regional competition hosts in TX, LA, MS, AL, and FL
- Marine research and/or education institutions in TX, LA, MS, AL, and FL
- Current or new NOSB teams/high schools in TX, LA, MS, AL, and FL interested in participating in a NOSB regional competition (please see item ‘C’ on page 2 for additional proposal requirements)

It is anticipated that there will be up to $15,000 available for 2-3 institutions in this Diversity Initiative grant program. The Consortium for Ocean Leadership anticipates awarding two (2) $7,200 grants or three (3) $4,800 grants, dependent on the number and quality of proposals received.

Proposals will be reviewed by Consortium for Ocean Leadership staff. Preference will be given to proposals that target audiences underrepresented in science and engineering in one of the five Gulf states. Our focus is to expand the reach of NOSB and to attract students from diverse backgrounds to participate in the program, which may lead them to potentially consider and prepare for a career in the ocean sciences or other science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) career after high school.

Proposals will be evaluated by Consortium for Ocean Leadership staff and preference will be based upon a project’s ability to meet the following priorities:
1. Ability to reach target audiences underrepresented in science and engineering in TX, LA, MS, AL, or FL. NOSB’s working definition of diversity follows NSF’s National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) definition and includes women, minorities (African America, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Hispanic or Latino) and persons with disabilities. NOSB does attract women to the program.
2. Strength of link and/or partnership with a Gulf region NOSB regional competition:
   a. Loggerhead Challenge (http://loggerheadchallenge.tamu.edu/)
b. Dolphin Challenge (http://dolphinchallenge.tamu.edu/)
c. Hurricane Bowl (http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/mec/national.ocean.sciences.bowl.php)
e. Manatee Bowl (http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/outreach/student-educator/nosb/)

3. Demonstrated or described strength of links to, and ability to engage, high schools in the local area/region.
4. Approach to meeting critical needs in encouraging underserved and underrepresented students to develop an interest in science and see the future career opportunities available to them.

Proposals should address the following questions (500 word maximum per question):

1. How many schools and/or students do you anticipate reaching?
2. What is the target diversity of the schools and students you anticipate reaching? (please provide demographic statistics if available)
3. Which population(s) do you anticipate reaching – NOSB team members, students in a specific class, NOSB coaches?
4. Will you be sustaining an ongoing diversity initiative or instituting a new diversity endeavor?
5. What will be your approach to engaging students and preparing them for a regional NOSB competition (activities, scrimmages, mentoring, outreach, follow-up)?
6. What will the impact be on the NOSB program, your regional NOSB competition, the local community and/or your institution?
7. What are your anticipated results?
8. How do you plan to measure your outcomes and success?

Please also provide the following:
A. Budget (based on receiving an award for $7,200 or $4,800)
   a. Institutions that will not be charging indirect rates must include a letter signed by an authorized representative that states that the institution has agreed to waive the applicable indirect rates.
B. Key personnel (names and contact information including address, phone number and email address)
C. Letter of support from a regional NOSB competition documenting team(s) reached by your efforts will be competing in 2014 (MUST be submitted if you are NOT a current NOSB regional competition host)
D. Letters of support from collaborating partners, if available

The funding announcement will be made by November 8, 2013.

Proposal Time frame – Funded projects must start by December 1, 2013, and must conclude by July 30, 2014.

Reporting - An annual technical report and Financial Statement Report are required to be submitted by August 31, 2014.