

# EPSCoR MISSOURI

Missouri is now eligible to apply for funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). The program aims to provide strategic opportunities to stimulate sustainable improvements in R&D infrastructure, capacity and competitiveness, and to advance science and engineering capabilities for discovery, innovation and knowledge-based prosperity—capabilities that will enable Missourians from all regions - urban to rural - and from all economic levels.

## **Planning Proposal**

Personnel from MU along with a state-wide Governing Committee have communicated with NSF and a planning proposal was submitted to the NSF on January 13, 2012. The planning proposal clearly outlined steps for involving Missouri's research, educational and business interests in devising a cohesive plan for improving Missouri science and its economic impact - a plan that also seeks to improve all levels of STEM education, and access to it by our diverse workforce and student populations.

## **Missouri's Science and Technology Plan**

The NSF requires that we develop a Science and Technology Plan for Missouri. The Missouri Department of Economic Development *Strategic Initiative for Economic Growth and Target Cluster and Market Analysis* provide helpful starting points to build upon. In addition, the legislature has passed the Missouri Science and Innovation Reinvestment Act.

## **CALL FOR CONCEPT PAPERS**

Integral to our EPSCoR planning is to receive ideas from Missouri's science, education and business sectors on how to improve scientific/education infrastructure. The advisory committee has specifically identified a need for improved infrastructure to maintain and accelerate Missouri's success in the biosciences. A central theme is the need for improved cyber and informatics capabilities.

## **EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Program: Track-1**

Awards provide up to \$4 million per year for up to 5 years to support physical, human, and cyber infrastructure improvements in research areas selected by the Governing Committee. The State must show demonstrated commitment, including 20% cost match, to develop its research bases and to improve the quality of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) research conducted at its universities and colleges.

## **Examples of Track-1 activities**

- Support for "start-up" funding for new faculty
- Development of meaningful partnerships
- Establishment of graduate research training groups
- Implementation of novel concepts for discovery-based STEM education
- Support for teams that include persons with disabilities and diversity in gender, race, and ethnicity, that will result in a strong, quantifiable impact on the STEM workforce
- Support for the acquisition of equipment
- Support for activities that promise extraordinary outcomes including revolutionizing entire disciplines, creating new fields, or disrupting accepted theories and perspectives.

## **CONTACTS**

Joe Polacco, project director, and Anna Waldron, co-project director, are available to answer questions and to visit with groups around the state about EPSCoR Missouri.

They can be reached at [EPSCoR@Missouri.edu](mailto:EPSCoR@Missouri.edu) if you would like to schedule time with one of both of them.

