



## **GEM3 Vertically Integrated Project (VIP) Funding Request for Proposals**



### **RFP GEM3 VIP FUNDING 2020**

[Click here to Apply](#)

**Deadline: February 14, 2020, 5pm (PST)**

#### **Introduction**

Idaho NSF EPSCoR GEM3 funding is available to facilitate the development of VIP (Vertically Integrated Project) courses related to the GEM3 research areas. VIP is a program to increase student access to hands-on learning with faculty mentors and diverse teams. The VIP approach is at the center of the Idaho NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Track-1 GEM3 Education, Workforce Development, and Diversity plans.

#### **GEM3**

This VIP Funding program is part of Idaho's multi-year (2018-2023) statewide NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Track-1 Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) award, "Genes by Environment: Modeling, Mechanisms, and Mapping (GEM3)." The project is highly aligned with Idaho's *Higher Education Research Strategic Plan*.

GEM3 includes a statewide collaborative academic research program committed to Idaho EPSCoR's "ONEIdaho" philosophy. Faculty and students at Idaho's universities and colleges work collaboratively across institutions on basic research; integration of science disciplines; integration of research, education, and workforce development; and fostering integration of science and stakeholders.

#### ***GEM3 Vision***

*Idaho leads the nation with thriving, collaborative, and inclusive research to discover and predict how plants, animals, and people interact and adapt to changing environments, resulting in the sustainable management of natural resources.*

#### ***GEM3 Mission***

*To discover fundamental knowledge of genetic mechanisms and train a diverse workforce to inform evidence-based management of natural resources.*

#### **Purpose of VIP Funding**

Idaho NSF EPSCoR GEM3 funding is available annually to facilitate the development of VIP (Vertically Integrated Project) courses related to the GEM3 research areas.

The VIP program unites undergraduate education and faculty scholarship in a team-based context. Within this context, VIP teams earn academic credit for their participation in design/discovery efforts that assist faculty and graduate students with research and development issues in GEM3 areas of interest and expertise. VIP teams are: (I) vertically-integrated – maintaining a mix of freshman through postdoctoral fellows each semester; (II) long-term – each student may participate for the duration of their education; and (III) multidisciplinary – drawing students from all disciplines on campus. Providing course credit to faculty and students incentivizes participation, while aligning stakeholders from freshman-to-faculty-to-funding agencies makes the program sustainable at the faculty level.

The VIP courses will be set up to allow maximum flexibility and long-term engagement.

- Some VIP courses may be designed to have no prerequisites.
- Students must have permission from the instructor.
- Depending upon the course, undergraduate students may register for 1 or 2 credits; each credit equals about 40 hours of work for the semester.
- Graduate students may register for credits.
- Course credits typically count as elective credits.

Visit the national consortium for VIP for more information [www.vip-consortium.org/](http://www.vip-consortium.org/). Visit [www.idahogem3.org/vip](http://www.idahogem3.org/vip) for more information about VIP in GEM3. Visit [www.idahogem3.org/research](http://www.idahogem3.org/research) to learn more about GEM3 research areas.

### **Eligibility**

Faculty at Boise State University, Idaho State University, and the University of Idaho are eligible to apply for this VIP funding. Prior or current involvement in the NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1 GEM3 project is NOT a prerequisite for participation in this VIP Funding program; however, faculty members not yet involved in GEM3 are strongly encouraged to contact GEM3 leads and VIP Coordinators (see below) at the respective institutions to explore alignment and synergies. All proposers should discuss creation of a VIP course with their department leadership prior to submission.

What if you could partner with a student workforce that helps train, retain, and sustain scholarly activity – increasing productivity without expanding your personnel budget? What if you could further reduce barriers for underrepresented groups to engage in your scholarship – broadening student participation and changing life trajectories? If these kinds of questions interest you, please consider applying.

### **Award and Budget**

Up to five, \$10,000 direct-cost awards will be granted under this request for proposals. Funding may be used as salary for the faculty member or their graduate student assistant to create a VIP course related to GEM3 research areas. Please provide the name(s) of the one(s) receiving salary support and estimated amounts of direct costs to each, if split.

Each successful VIP course award will receive \$10,000 direct cost. Associated fringe benefits and F&A will also be provided to recipient institutions in the awards, but these do not need to be calculated in the proposal.

### **Expectations**

**VIP.** There is an expectation that the VIP course will be offered for the first time no later than Fall 2020. In addition, there is the expectation that the course will continue to be offered into the future. Students are able to join research teams through the VIP class and earn 1-2 credits each semester. The very nature of VIP courses is that they are tied to a faculty member's authentic scholarship and that they are long term, with students taking the course for multiple semesters in order to truly gain the skills and benefits of a research project.

**Management.** The proposing Principal Investigator (PI) will be responsible for managing the activities of the award including logistics, gathering participant information, overseeing finances, providing information for evaluation and assessment, and submitting the final report. Awarded funds must be expended during the specific performance period of the VIP Funding project.

**Reporting.** PIs of VIP Funding awards must be willing to provide a brief report of the VIP Funding efforts and outcomes for quarterly internal GEM3 meetings and for each annual report to NSF (normally prepared late-May).

**Funding Source Acknowledgement.** Acknowledgement of the funding source is required and should be formatted such as: "This product was made possible by the NSF Idaho EPSCoR Program and by the National Science Foundation under award number OIA-1757324."

### **Application Process**

To apply for VIP course development and delivery funds described in this announcement, please complete the online application [HERE](#).

- ✓ Application should include 2-page NSF-formatted Bio-sketch for investigator
- ✓ The completed application should not exceed 4 pages (*Bio-sketch is not counted toward this limit*)
- ✓ PI's at any institutions *other than the U of I* should route proposals through their Office of Sponsored Programs and obtain approval to submit prior to submission to the Idaho EPSCoR Office.

**The deadline to apply is February 14, 2020 at 5pm Pacific Time.**

### **Proposal Review Process**

VIP Funding proposals will be selected by the GEM3 Research and Education Convergence team representing the statewide RII Track-1 award based on external reviews and with input as needed from GEM3 leadership teams. External reviewer comments will be shared with each lead of the VIP proposals.

Review may include content experts at any of Idaho's research universities who are not significantly involved in the GEM3 project. External experts will include but are not limited to GEM3 Project Advisory Board (PAB) members.

### **Selection Criteria**

VIP course applications will be considered by the GEM3 leadership team based on the following criteria:

- Clearly related to relevant GEM3 research topics;
- Likelihood of meeting basic standards of VIP courses: vertical, accessible, tied to a faculty member's scholarship;
- The extent to which the course can provide multi-disciplinary/interdisciplinary training and experiences;
- The quality of a brief plan to recruit diverse students to the course;
- Degree to which the course holds promise of being sustainable over the long-term (5+ years);
- Instructor(s) qualifications and past record of success in mentoring and teaching;
- Geographic distribution of VIP courses at multiple institutions across the state.



### **Questions?**

Please contact the VIP coordinator on your campus:

Boise State University:  
Idaho State University:  
University of Idaho:

Donna Llewellyn, [donnallewellyn@boisestate.edu](mailto:donnallewellyn@boisestate.edu)  
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