

NSF EPSCoR Track-1 Graduate Assistantships

An objective of South Dakota's National Science Foundation EPSCoR RII Track-1 project is to increase the number of Native Americans qualified to be faculty members at the three Tribal Colleges and Universities in South Dakota: Oglala Lakota College, Sinte Gleska University and Sisseton Wahpeton College. To accomplish this objective, the Track-1 project will support Native Americans attending graduate school in South Dakota and supporting Track-1 project activities. The Track-1 project activities in which the participants could be involved include the following:

- Summer Institute: A 4-week summer institute will be conducted at Oglala Lakota College, Sinte Gleska University and Sisseton Wahpeton College each year. The first three weeks of the Summer Institute will be conducted at the tribal college or university and the fourth week will be at SDSU, USD or South Dakota Mines. During the summer institute, high school and undergraduate students will complete two introductory science courses and also participate in a research activity or internship. Graduate students could teach the introductory courses or assist with instruction and mentor the high school and undergraduate students on the research.
- Research: Traditional graduate research assistantships are a possibility to work on Track-1 research related to biofilm or data management.
- STEM Education: The education component of the Track-1 project involves development of STEM K-12 curriculum modules including Native American culture, training K-12 teachers on the modules and assessing the impact on student learning.
- Mentoring Native American undergraduate students.

NSF EPSCoR partner institutions may apply for Track-1 funding to support Native American graduate students. The academic department where the student is majoring submits the application with the graduate school and research and sponsored programs approval. The salary and benefits paid the student must be consistent with BOR policy and other graduate rates in the department. The maximum NSF funding \$26,000 per year. If approved, the SD EPSCoR office will provide the applicant department with the BOR fund number for payment of salary, benefits and actual tuition remission costs for the student. If the total cost for the year exceeds the \$26,000, the department or institution may choose to supplement the NSF EPSCoR funds to provide the graduate student with the financial support consistent with other graduate students supported in their department.

The goal of the activity is to increase the number of qualified Native American faculty members teaching at the South Dakota tribal colleges and universities. While involvement of students in the EPSCoR research programs graduate students in STEM and Education programs are eligible for support. Departments may apply for EPSCoR Track-1 support at anytime during the year, but funding is limited so departments are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

Institutions are encouraged to submit requests for funding of a research or assistantship for a Native American student with the student's application for the program. Selection criteria for award will be based on the student's application and the institution's leveraging of NSF EPSCoR funds.

Please direct questions regarding the program to Mel Ustad, SD EPSCoR Director, email Mel.Ustad@sdbor.edu or call 605-670-1678.

Application for the SD EPSCoR Native American Graduate Student Support

Institution: _____ Contact: _____

Department: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Student Information:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Middle: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tribe enrolled: _____

Major: _____

Statement of Work:

Budget Request:

Item	Fall	Spring	Summer
Salary			
Benefits			
Tuition Remission Estimate			
Total Request			

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Department Chair Signature: _____ Date: _____

Graduate School Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsored Programs Signature: _____ Date: _____