

## Grant Opportunities

October 2015

In an effort to better inform faculty and staff about grant opportunities, this report will be updated monthly providing a high-level glimpse at funding possibilities for which projects could be developed that are consistent with BCTC's strategic plan and annual priorities.

### Federal Grants

---

**Title:** [Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers \(ITEST\)](#)

**Sponsor:** National Science Foundation

**Due Date:** November 13, 2015

**Maximum Funding Amount and Duration:** \$1.2M over 3 years.

**Special Notes:** This grant opportunity is also available in 2016 (due August 10, 2016).

**Description:** The ITEST program supports the development and implementation of innovative strategies to make PreK-12 students aware of STEM careers and motivate them to prepare for those careers. Projects involve applied research that tests new learning strategies grounded in a strong theoretical framework. Partnerships with PreK-12 schools, two- and four-year colleges, universities, informal science education institutions, government laboratories, or community-based organizations are encouraged along with business and industry partners that support, inform and cultivate student career awareness and interests.

---

**Title:** [Nursing Workforce Diversity \(NWD\) Program](#)

**Sponsor:** Department of Health and Human Services

**Due Date:** November 16, 2015

**Maximum Funding Amount and Duration:** \$350K for one year.

**Special Notes:** Solicitation contains specific guidelines on what they consider a disadvantaged background. This program will likely be offered in future years as well.

**Description:** The Nursing Workforce Diversity program seeks to increase retention of nursing students from disadvantaged backgrounds through the use of evidence-based approaches (e.g. various combinations of academic and peer support, mentoring, institutional and community partnerships, and/or student financial support). There is a Funding Preference for projects that will 1) substantially benefit rural or underserved populations, or 2) help meet public health nursing needs in state or local health departments.

---

**Title:** [Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Science Research](#)

**Sponsor:** National Science Foundation

**Due Dates:** December 1, 2015

**Maximum Funding Amount and Duration:** \$300K over 1-2 years for small projects (may be extended); \$1M over 2-5 years for large projects.

**Special Notes:** This opportunity is geared toward Ph.D. faculty that are interested in research for publication. This program will likely be offered in future years as well.

**Description:** The Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Science Research program supports research by interdisciplinary teams from social and behavioral sciences. Project teams must include at least three senior personnel who have already attained their terminal degree (usually a Ph.D. or the equivalent). At least two of these individuals must come from distinctively different disciplinary fields. Proposals should focus on basic research that will lead to publication in peer-reviewed journals. From the program guidance, "Development of new methods, collection of new databases of broader value, engagement in

education and training activities, and/or other forms of infrastructural activity may be a part of the project's activities, but the project's primary emphasis should be on scientifically exploring the validity of answers to focused, theoretically based questions." Researchers are encouraged to focus on one of the following:

- Population change
  - Sources and consequences of disparities
  - Technology, new media, and social networks
- 

**Title:** [National Robotics Initiative](#)

**Sponsor:** National Science Foundation (The program is supported by multiple federal agencies – NASA, NIH, USDA, and DOD).

**Due Date:** December 3, 2015

**Maximum Funding Amount and Duration:** \$100K - \$1M over 1-3 years; education-focused proposals are discouraged at the high end of the funding range.

**Special Notes:** This program will likely be offered in future years as well.

**Description:** The National Robotics Initiative seeks to accelerate the development and use of robots that work beside or cooperatively with people. Projects will address the entire life cycle from fundamental research and development to manufacturing and deployment, including methods for the establishment and infusion of robotics in educational curricula and research. Example activities include:

- Design of innovative robotic technologies as tools for enhancing STEM learning in formal and informal learning environments.
  - Applications that further the development of co-robot systems that support personalized learning.
  - Design, implementation, and rigorous study of robotics competitions impact on student engagement, motivation to learn STEM content, and STEM career motivation.
  - Establish competitions among funded projects for best performance of tasks to be defined by the participating program officers and managers.
- 

**Title:** [National Student Design Competition for Sustainability Focusing on People, Prosperity, and the Planet \(P3\)](#)

**Sponsor:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Due Date:** December 8, 2015

**Maximum Funding Amount and Duration:** \$15K over one year for Phase I awards; \$75K over two years for Phase II awards (Phase II proposal process begins in Spring 2017).

**Description:** The P3 program seeks proposals from interdisciplinary student teams to research, develop, and design solutions to real world sustainability challenges using scientific principles. This is a two-part competition; Phase I is a design grant and Phase II a demonstration grant. In the second step of the proposal process (Spring 2017), six teams will be invited to submit a report describing their Phase I activities and a proposal for further development in Phase II. Applicants must focus research on Energy, Built Environment, Materials and Chemicals, or Water. All proposals, regardless of research area, have the following requirements:

- Address the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of air pollution, water pollution, solid/hazardous waste pollution, toxic substances control, or pesticide control.
  - Proposals should not focus on fixing a problem via a well-established method, but instead highlight their innovative research aspects.
- 

**Title:** [Cyberlearning and Future Learning Technologies](#)

**Sponsor:** National Science Foundation

**Due Date:** December 18, 2015

**Maximum Funding Amount and Duration:** \$550K over 2-3 years.

**Special Notes:** This program offers four funding categories (Exploration, Design and Implementation, Integration, and Capacity-Building); the opportunity presented here is for the exploration track.

**Description:** The Cyberlearning and Future Learning Technologies program has two goals: (1) to invent/explore and learn to use new technologies to address educational goals and (2) to advance understanding of how to foster learning with new/emerging technology-enabled learning tools and experiences. Proposed projects should be learner-centered and focus on the study and application of new and emerging genres of learning technologies.

---

**Title:** [Research Coordination Networks \(RCN\)](#)

**Sponsor:** National Science Foundation

**Due Date:** January 6, 2016

**Maximum Funding Amount and Duration:** \$500K over 5 years.

**Description:** The RCN program supports networking activities to create new (as opposed to already existing) interdisciplinary collaborations. Grants will allow investigators to communicate and coordinate research, training, and educational activities across disciplinary, organizational, and geographic boundaries. Proposed activities should focus on a theme, such as a broad research question or particular technologies or approaches. These grants do not support primary research. There are two proposal types:

- RCN-UBE: Undergraduate Biology Education – Focuses on any topic likely to lead to improved participation, learning, or assessment in undergraduate biology curricula. Examples may include improving learning in “gateway” courses, improving learning through the use of technology, strategies and approaches for engaging biology faculty, etc.
  - General RCN – Supports groups of investigators to communicate/coordinate efforts to facilitate open communication and exchange of information and resources; to integrate research, education, and/or cyberinfrastructure activities of scientists, educators, and engineers working independently on topics of common interest; to nurture a sense of community among young scientists, educators, and engineers; and to minimize isolation and maximize cooperation so as to eliminate unnecessary duplication of efforts.
- 

## Non-Federal Grants

---

**Title:** [Education, Social Service, Health Care, Civic and Cultural, and Environmental Grants](#)

**Sponsor:** Dr. Scholl Foundation

**Due Date:** March 1, 2016 (Applications may be submitted any time between October 1 and March 1)

**Maximum Funding Amount and Duration:** \$25K over one year.

**Special Notes:** Grant awards range between \$5K and \$25K.

**Description:** The Foundation considers applications for grants in the following areas: Education, Social Service, Health Care, Civic and Cultural, and Environmental. However, other worthwhile projects may be considered. The categories above are broad to give flexibility in providing grants. Examples of grants awarded for education in the past include: education programs to fight poverty, scholarship programs, early childhood education and care programs, and equipment for an environmental sciences program.

The foundation does not consider the following for funding:

- Organizations that do not have a valid IRS 501(c)(3) determination letter
- Political organizations, political action committees, or individual campaigns whose primary purpose is to influence legislation
- Foundations that are themselves grantmaking bodies
- Grants for loans, operating deficit reductions, the liquidation of a debt or general support
- Grants to individuals

- Grants are rarely made to endowments or capital campaigns
  - Event sponsorships including the purchase of tables, tickets or advertisements
  - More than one request from the same organization in the same year
- 

**Title:** [Early Childhood Grants \(Early Childhood Welfare, Early Childhood Education, Parenting Education\)\\*](#)

**Sponsor:** Caplan Foundation for Early Childhood

**Due Date:** Letter of Inquiry Due December 31, 2015

**Maximum Funding Amount and Duration:** Award amount is unspecified, but the vast majority of awards are \$5K or less.

**Special Notes:** Grants in 2013 ranged from \$50 to \$32K.

**Description:** The foundation provides grants for innovative, creative projects and programs that will significantly enhance the development, health, safety, education or quality of life of children from infancy through five years of age. The foundation provides funding in Early Childhood Welfare, Early Childhood Education and Play, and Parenting Education. Each grant is made with the expectation that a successful project outcome will be of significant interest to other investigators or developers, within the grantee's field of endeavor, and will be amenable to beneficial application or adaptation elsewhere. In essence, the foundation's goal is to provide seed money for those imaginative endeavors, addressed to the needs of young children, which appear most likely to bear fruit on a national scale. The foundation will not fund:

- The operation or expansion of existing programs
  - The purchase or renovation of capital equipment, existing software or programmatic materials
  - Single events
  - The creation or acquisition of works of art or literary works
  - Organizations that discriminate based on race, color, creed, national origin or sexual orientation
  - Individuals or for-profit entities
  - Political organizations
  - Programs with any religious content
  - Organizations headquartered outside the United States
- 

\*Funding possibilities on this topic were requested by faculty/staff.

*If you have questions or would like more information about a grant opportunity, contact Alan Lawson at 859-246-6626 or [alan.lawson@kctcs.edu](mailto:alan.lawson@kctcs.edu).*