



January 2007

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## **Program Announcement**

# **Texas Space Grant Consortium Higher Education Programs**

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Notice of Intent Due: February 9, 2007  
Proposals Due: March 9, 2007  
Expected Award Date: April 20, 2007

## **I Introduction**

The Texas Space Grant Consortium has a long history of conducting space related Higher Education Programs across the state and the nation. TSGC is currently soliciting proposals that are designed to enhance students understanding of the benefits of space exploration and space based research.

Texas Space Grant Consortium anticipates making 4 to 7 new awards per year. The maximum individual award will be \$15,000 with a period of performance up to 24 months. Awards are overhead free.

## **II Purpose**

The main objective of Texas Space Grant Consortium Higher Education Programs is to enhance understanding and appreciation of the benefits of space exploration and space based research. TSGC's Higher Education Program goals are:

1. Provide opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in space based research and exploration.
2. Support NASA related research activities through student projects
3. Facilitate mentor relationships between students and faculty and the NASA community.
4. Development of interdisciplinary courses and curriculum.
5. Development of introductory courses for undergraduate students not majoring in scientific or technological disciplines.

In 2007 TSGC will focus the awarded granted under this program on goals 4 and 5. TSGC has traditionally focused on highly leveraged Higher Education Programs. This focus allows TSGC to highly leverage its programs to impact a large number of people.

## **III Eligibility**

Competition is open faculty members at TSGC members in good standing. Principal investigators must be US citizens. Proposal submission is limited to one per investigator per year.

In order to satisfy NASA grant matching requirements, the total awarded amount must be matched 1:1 in either in cash, in-kind support, or both, by the proposing institution(s). This 1:1 support must be documented and included in the proposal budget and signed by a cognizant institutional official.

TSGC encourages the participation of PI's who are women, under-represented minorities, or persons with disabilities.

## **IV Notice of Intent**

In order to plan for a timely and efficient review process, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to propose is strongly encouraged. The NOI is due by the date given in this program announcement. The submission of a NOI is not a commitment to submit a proposal, nor is information contained therein considered binding on the submitter. The NOI must include the following: proposal title, principal investigator, institution, PI email, PI phone number,



and a 200-300 word description of the project. NOI's may be sent electronically to TSGC at [proposals@tsgc.utexas.edu](mailto:proposals@tsgc.utexas.edu).

## **V Proposal**

Proposals must be single-spaced with type size of at least 11 points and margins of at least one inch on all sides. Proposals exceeding page limitations will not be reviewed. Each proposal should be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. It should not be bound.

Each proposal must be in the following format:

### *1. Cover Page*

The cover page must include the following items: Project title; project dates of service; PI name and contact information, institutions and signatures; and date of proposal.

### *2. Project Description*

A description of the proposed program. This section should include but not be limited to the following. This section is limited to six pages.

- a. How the program addresses one or more of TSGC goals.
- b. Goals and objectives of the program.
- c. Evaluation plan.
- d. Dissemination plan.
- e. Projected impact both numerically and depth.
- f. Plan for sustainability after the conclusion of TSGC funding.
- g. List of team members and their roles and responsibilities.

### *3. Budget*

Attach a budget summary and description page that outlines costs that include: a) personnel salaries and wages, b) domestic travel, and c) direct costs associated with materials and supplies, publication costs, or other direct costs d) Contributions of partners. This section is limited to two pages.

### *4. Matching Support*

The required 1:1 matching support must be documented and included in the proposal budget and signed by a cognizant institutional official.

### *5. Resume Material*

Maximum two page resume of Principal Investigator. The resume should demonstrate the PI's expertise in conducting the program.

### *6. Partnerships*

Describe the roles and responsibilities of each partner. Also include a letter of commitment and support from each partner. Partners may include but not be limited to K-12 educators, discovery centers, museums, challenger centers, etc.

### *7. Research and Education Funding Support*



Include an attachment that identifies the current support the investigator: source of support, project title, amount of award, period covered by award, and months or % time committed by the project director during the award period.

*8. Additional materials*

Additional pertinent documentation of no more than five pages may be included as necessary. Reviewers have the option of not considering this material.

## **VI Period of Performance**

The period of performance of this award will follow the academic year (September to August) and may not exceed 24 months.

## **VII Expenses**

The following expenses are explicitly allowed and disallowed under this award. All expenses not directly allowed must receive prior approval from the sponsor before they are incurred. Any re-budgeting of funds must receive prior approval of the sponsor.

### Allowable Expenses

The following expenses are allowed under the terms of this grant

- a. Salary, Wages, and Fringe Benefits for the Principal Investigator, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students
- b. Tuition costs for graduate students
- c. Domestic travel
- d. Materials and supplies as defined in the budget description

### Unallowable Expenses

The following expenses are not allowed under the terms of this grant

- a. Overhead or Indirect Costs
- b. Equipment – As defined by the State of Texas and the federal government
- c. Furniture
- d. Building costs/remodeling costs
- e. Telephone charges
- f. Office Supplies
- g. Administrative support
- h. Computer use fees
- i. Subcontracts
- j. Consulting services
- k. Charges that fall outside of the approved period of performance of the award

## **VIII Reporting Requirements**

Progress reports must be submitted each six months from the start of the award. These reports must contain the following.

1. Description of the program to date.
2. Budgetary information including partnerships.
3. Detailed description of program and budgetary discrepancies from the proposal.



4. Copy of all products produced.
5. Copy of all advertising material produced.

## **IX Other Requirements**

- Texas Space Grant Consortium Membership Meeting Attendance  
The investigator is required to attend at least one of TSGC two annual membership meetings. These meetings are held in the Spring and Fall.
- Acknowledgment of support.  
An acknowledgment of TSGC support must appear in any publication of any material based on this project in terms similar to the following: "This material is based in part upon work supported by the Texas Space Grant Consortium."
- Site visits.  
TSGC representatives shall have the right to make site visits to review project accomplishments.
- Audit and records.  
Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and other material pertinent to this grant shall be retained by the grantee for a period of three years following submission of the final project report and shall be made available to TSGC upon request. This material, the organizational prior-approval system, and the internal project audits and subject to review by TSGC officials.
- Payments  
The grantee institution shall receive payments under this grant through that institution's Office of Sponsored Projects. Invoices must be submitted no later than the 15th calendar day of the month following the expense. Invoices submitted later than the 15th calendar day of the month following the expense will not be honored.
- Notification of absence.  
TSGC shall be notified prior to an investigator's absence from campus for a period of four months or more. Prolonged absences from the campus for non-project related purposes are subject to TSGC review.
- Changes in principal investigator.  
If the principal investigator or project director leaves the grantee institution or otherwise relinquishes active direction of the project, the institution must notify TSGC as soon as possible and the award will be terminated. Awards may not be transferred if the PI leaves the grantee institution to another institution that is not an active academic member of the Texas Space Grant Consortium.
- Suspension or termination.  
This grant may be suspended or terminated if the grantee fails to comply with all the terms and conditions of the grant or if the principal investigator leaves the university.
- Nondiscrimination.



No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under this grant on grounds of race, color, national origin, religious affiliation, handicap, or gender.

- Compliance with regulations.  
The investigator must abide by all state and federal regulations related to research.
- Liability.  
TSGC shall not be held liable in the event of damages to persons or property which may occur in the course of activities conducted as a result of this grant.

### **X Proposal Review and Evaluation**

This program is designed to provide start up funds for high impact Higher Education Program activities conducted by our member institutions. All proposals will be evaluated upon the following criteria.

1. Alignment with the NASA Strategic plan
2. Alignment with TSGC objectives and goals
3. Experience of PI in conducting HE and EPO programs
4. Sustainability of the program after the completing of TSGC funding
5. Numbers of people impacted by the program
6. Depth of impact of the program
7. Leveraging of TSGC funds

### **XI Proposal Submission and Selection Schedule**

Submit proposals both by mail and electronically:

Mail Original plus THREE (3) copies to:	Send one Electronic PDF Copy via e-mail
Higher Education Proposals Texas Space Grant Consortium 3925 West Braker Lane, Suite 200 Austin, Texas 78759 512-471-3583	jurgens@tsgc.utexas.edu

Submission deadline and timing: by 5 PM, March 9, 2007

Inquiries: Texas Space Grant Consortium  
3925 West Braker Lane, Suite 200  
Austin, Texas 78759  
512-471-3583  
512-471-3585 (Fax)  
proposals@tsgc.utexas.edu

Announcement of Selections are expected by end of April 2007.



## **Judging Criteria**

1. Address overall goal of TSGC Higher Education Program (HEP)  
Goal: Enhance students understanding of the benefits of space exploration and space-related research
2. Address the following goal of the TSGC HEP program  
Goal: Provide opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in space-related research & exploration
3. Address the following goal of the TSGC HEP program  
Goal: Support NASA related research activities through student projects
4. Address the following goal of the TSGC HEP program  
Goal: Facilitate mentor relationships between students, faculty, and the NASA community
5. Address the following goal of the TSGC HEP program  
Goal: Development of interdisciplinary courses and curriculum units
6. Address the following goal of the TSGC HEP program  
Goal: Development of introductory courses for undergraduate students not majoring in scientific or technological disciplines
7. Ability of project to meet proposed objectives

### **Principal Investigator**

1. Experience in conducting Higher Education projects
2. Available resources

### **Project**

1. Evaluation plan
2. Dissemination plan
3. Projected Impact (number of people reached by the project)
4. Projected Impact depth
5. Sustainability of Project after funding
6. Partnerships
7. Budget

### **Overall**

1. Overall Impression
  - 0 Weak proposal, not aligned with TSGC, reject funding
  - 1-2 Average proposal, moderately aligned with TSGC efforts, reject funding
  - 4-5 Good proposal, aligned with TSGC efforts, consider funding
  - 6-8 Strong, well thought out proposal, closely aligned with TSGC efforts, recommend funding
  - 9-10 Exceptional proposal, high impact, highly recommended for funding