



SOUTH DAKOTA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM
Research Experience for Teachers – Application and Instructions
Summer 2017

(Release Date – November 18, 2016)

Program Summary

The South Dakota Space Grant Consortium (SDSGC) announces a new program: Research Experience for Teachers (RET). The program enables high school teachers to enrich their knowledge of science and engineering practices by joining a research group at a South Dakota university or laboratory in the summer of 2017 under the mentorship of a university or other professional researcher. Research has shown that teachers who participate in research in science and engineering are able to provide an enriched classroom experience for their students in subsequent years.

We invite current high school teachers in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) disciplines to apply for one of two to four RET fellowships that are anticipated to be offered this summer. Research projects must align with NASA's mission and those of the SDSGC and its affiliates.

Individual RET fellowship awards will be \$8,000 (computer purchases are not allowed with these funds.) Participants are expected to:

- work at a SDSGC affiliate research organization* during the Summer of 2017 full time for at least eight weeks;
- participate in weekly videoconferences with other RET teachers and science education professionals to develop strategies for transferring the summer experience to the classroom;
- give a poster or oral presentation about your research at the South Dakota Academy of Science annual conference in the spring of 2018;
- by April 18, 2018, awardees should submit a brief report to the SDSGC management team (see reporting instructions below).

Teachers will make their own arrangements for working with a research group. However, if you are interested in a particular area of research and/or location and need help in making contact with a faculty member, please contact Peggy Norris at pnorris@sanfordlab.org.

Important Dates

Application Receipt Deadline: **January 20, 2017, 11:59 p.m. MST.**

Award Notification: anticipated to be announced by **March 24, 2017.**

Eligibility and U.S. Citizenship Requirement

All applicants must be citizens of the United States. Applicants must be full time teachers in a STEM discipline in a South Dakota high school during the 2016-2017 school year, and planning to teach full time for at least three more years.

Application Instructions

Applications are to be submitted as one complete pdf file to pnorris@sanfordlab.org. A complete application consists of the following four items in the following order:

1. A completed application form (at the end of this announcement.)
2. A cover letter which includes an explanation of what you hope to bring back to the classroom from your proposed RET experience and how the proposed research aligns with NASA interests.
3. A letter of commitment from a principal investigator in the proposed research group stating that he/she is willing to mentor the high school teacher, and a brief description of the specific research project(s) in which the teacher will participate.
4. A Curriculum Vita which includes, for the previous five year period: 1) the schools in which you have taught, 2) the courses you taught, and 3) any STEM enrichment activities in which you have participated.

The applicant may wish to consult the NASA website www.nasa.gov for information on NASA priority areas.

Applications will be reviewed and award selections made by the SDSGC Management Team listed online at <http://sdSPACEgrant.sdsmt.edu/contact.html>. The awardee should contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or a tax accountant to determine what needs to be reported on a tax return since Consortium personnel may not be qualified to answer all questions in this regard.

Reporting

By April 18, 2018, awardees must submit a brief report (an email message will suffice) to Tom Durkin <Thomas.Durkin@sdsmt.edu> at the Space Grant Headquarters Office summarizing his/her experience and accomplishments. The report should include a description of how the summer experience impacted or improved their ability to deliver STEM curriculum to the students in their classroom.

Inquiries

Questions concerning the preparation and submission of applications and the administration of this program should be addressed to Peggy Norris, Deputy Director, Education and Outreach, Sanford Underground Research Facility, 630 E. Summit St, Lead, SD 57754, Email: pnorris@sanfordlab.org, Phone: 605-722-5049.

Acknowledgement

In any presentations or publications that are developed as a result of the RET research project, we ask that the teacher please acknowledge the support provided by the NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium.

*** SDSGC affiliate research institutions are:** Augustana University (Sioux Falls), Black Hills State University (Spearfish), Dakota State University (Madison), Lake Area Tech (Watertown), Northern State University (Aberdeen), Oglala Lakota College (Kyle), Sanford Underground Research Facility (Lead), Sinte Gleska University (Mission), South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (Rapid City), South Dakota State University (Brookings), United States Geological Survey Center for Earth Resources Observation and Science (EROS, in Sioux Falls), University of South Dakota (Vermillion)

**SDSGC Research Experience for Teachers
APPLICATION COVER PAGE**

NAME: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE: SCHOOL: _____ CELL: _____

SCHOOL: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE INFORMATION:

INSTITUTION: _____

DEPARTMENT: _____

MENTOR: _____

MENTOR'S EMAIL: _____

I ATTEST THAT I AM A UNITED STATES CITIZEN.

(signature)

(date)

I ATTEST THAT I WORKED FULL TIME TEACHING IN A SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL IN 2016-2017 AND THAT, BARRING UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, I AM PLANNING TO CONTINUE TEACHING IN SOUTH DAKOTA FOR AT LEAST THREE MORE YEARS. -

(signature)

(date)