

**Request for Pre-proposals for
NSF EPSCoR
Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII)
State Proposal**

June 9, 2005

TO: Science and Engineering Department Chairs/Heads and Research Administrators
(please notify appropriate faculty)

FROM: F. Fred Choobineh, Director, Nebraska EPSCoR

RE: Call for Pre-proposals for NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement
(RII) State Proposal

Deadline: 5:00 PM, Monday, September 19, 2005

Nebraska EPSCoR is committed to capitalizing on existing strengths while further strengthening the state's research infrastructure and ability to compete for the largest awards from NSF and other federal agencies. In addition, Nebraska EPSCoR encourages and promotes inter-institution and multi-disciplinary collaboration that includes Nebraska industries. Nebraska will submit its next Research Infrastructure Improvement grant proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the summer of 2006. This \$9M grant proposal, if funded, will assist Nebraska EPSCoR in fulfilling its mission of enhancing the state's research competitiveness while broadening the diversity and participation of underrepresented groups in the technical workforce.

In preparation for the planned RII grant submission, Nebraska EPSCoR seeks pre-proposals from faculty groups in Nebraska research institutions that could become components of the RII grant proposal. Pre-proposals are restricted to research areas supportable by NSF in basic sciences, engineering or mathematics. A pre-proposal should be multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional and focus on a research "cluster" that has a common scientific theme. The research team must be led by a senior faculty member at one of Nebraska's research universities, and the team must position itself to submit a center grant proposal to the NSF two years after the awarding of the RII grant. The cluster team members may include out-of-state researchers but no EPSCoR funds may be spent for their activities. Nebraska EPSCoR encourages partnerships and alliances with Nebraska research and/or technology based businesses to increase the competitiveness of the state's science and technology talent in competition for federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grants.

For more information and the full RFP, please call 402-472-8946, or e-mail the Nebraska EPSCoR office at epscor@unl.edu.

