



GEM3 Vertically Integrated Project (VIP) Funding Request for Applications



RFP GEM3 VIP FUNDING 2022

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Priority Deadline: December 15, 2021 12pm (PST)

Introduction

Idaho NSF EPSCoR GEM3 funding is available to facilitate the development of VIP (Vertically Integrated Project) courses related to the GEM3 research areas. VIP is a program to increase student access to hands-on learning with faculty mentors and diverse teams. The VIP approach is at the center of the Idaho NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Track-1 GEM3 Education, Workforce Development, and Diversity plans.

GEM3

This VIP Funding program is part of Idaho's multi-year (2018-2023) statewide NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Track-1 Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) award, "Genes by Environment: Modeling, Mechanisms, and Mapping (GEM3)." The project is highly aligned with Idaho's *Higher Education Research Strategic Plan*.

GEM3 includes a statewide collaborative academic research program committed to Idaho EPSCoR's "ONEIdaho" philosophy. Faculty and students at Idaho's universities and colleges work collaboratively across institutions on basic research; integration of science disciplines; integration of research, education, and workforce development; and fostering integration of science and stakeholders.

GEM3 Vision

Idaho leads the nation with thriving, collaborative, and inclusive research to discover and predict how plants, animals, and people interact and adapt to changing environments, resulting in the sustainable management of natural resources.

GEM3 Mission

To discover fundamental knowledge of genetic mechanisms and train a diverse workforce to inform evidence-based management of natural resources.

Purpose of VIP Funding

Idaho NSF EPSCoR GEM3 funding is available annually to facilitate the development of VIP (Vertically Integrated Project) courses related to the GEM3 research areas.

The VIP program unites undergraduate education and faculty scholarship in a team-based context. Within this context, VIP teams earn academic credit for their participation in design/discovery efforts that assist faculty and graduate students with research and development issues in GEM3 areas of interest and expertise. VIP teams are: (I) vertically-integrated – maintaining a mix of freshman through postdoctoral fellows each semester; (II) long-term – each student may participate for the duration of their education; and (III) multidisciplinary – drawing students from all disciplines on campus. Providing course credit to faculty and students incentivizes participation, while aligning stakeholders from freshman-to-faculty-to-funding agencies makes the program sustainable at the faculty level.

The VIP courses will be set up to allow maximum flexibility and long-term engagement.

- Some VIP courses may be designed to have no prerequisites.
- Students must have permission from the instructor.
- Depending upon the course, undergraduate students may register for 1 or 2 credits; each credit equals about 40 hours of work for the semester.
- Graduate students may register for credits.
- Course credits typically count as elective credits.

Visit the national consortium for VIP for more information www.vip-consortium.org/. Visit www.idahogem3.org/vip for more information about VIP in GEM3. Visit www.idahogem3.org/research to learn more about GEM3 research areas.

Faculty are encouraged to consider collaborating with or adapting existing GEM3 VIP courses to expand VIP offerings across institutions.

Eligibility

Faculty at Boise State University, Idaho State University, and the University of Idaho are eligible to apply for this VIP funding. Prior or current involvement in the NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1 GEM3 project is NOT a prerequisite for participation in this VIP Funding program; however, faculty members not yet involved in GEM3 are strongly encouraged to contact GEM3 leads and VIP Coordinators (see below) at the respective institutions to explore alignment and synergies. All proposers should discuss creation of a VIP course with their department leadership prior to submission.

What if you could partner with a student workforce that helps train, retain, and sustain scholarly activity – increasing productivity without expanding your personnel budget? What if you could further reduce barriers for underrepresented groups to engage in your scholarship – broadening student participation and changing life trajectories? If these kinds of questions interest you, please consider applying.

Award and Budget

Up to two, \$12,000 direct-cost awards will be granted under this request for applications. Funding may be used as supplies and/or salary for the faculty member or their graduate student assistant to create a VIP course related to GEM3 research areas. Please provide the name(s) of the one(s) receiving salary support and estimated amounts of salary/fringe to each, if split and/or the breakdown of supplies.

Each successful VIP course award will receive up to \$12,000 direct cost. F&A will also be provided to recipient institutions in the awards by the Idaho EPSCoR Office.

Expectations

VIP. There is an expectation that the VIP course will be offered for the first time no later than Fall 2022. In addition, there is the expectation that the course will continue to be offered into the future. Students can join research teams through the VIP class and earn 1-2 credits each semester. The very nature of VIP courses is that they are tied to a faculty member's authentic scholarship and that they are long-term, with students taking the course for multiple semesters in order to truly gain the skills and benefits of a research project.

Management. The proposing Principal Investigator (PI) will be responsible for managing the activities of the award including logistics, gathering participant information, overseeing finances, providing information for evaluation and assessment, and submitting the final report. Awarded funds must be expended during the specific performance period of the VIP Funding project.

Reporting. PIs of VIP Funding awards must be willing to provide a brief report of the VIP Funding efforts and outcomes for quarterly internal GEM3 meetings and for each annual report to NSF (normally prepared ~May).

Funding Source Acknowledgement. Acknowledgement of the funding source is required and should be formatted such as: "This product was made possible by the NSF Idaho EPSCoR Program and by the National Science Foundation under award number OIA-1757324."

Application Process

To apply for VIP course development and delivery funds described in this announcement, please complete the online application [HERE](#).

- ✓ The completed application should not exceed 4 pages
- ✓ PI's at Idaho State University are expected to route applications through their Office of Sponsored Programs and obtain approval to submit prior to submission to the Idaho EPSCoR Office.

The *priority deadline* to apply is December 15, 2021 at 12pm Pacific Time.

Application Review Process

VIP application funding will be selected by the GEM3 Research and Education Convergence team representing the statewide RII Track-1 award based on external reviews and with input as needed from GEM3 leadership teams. External reviewer comments will be shared with each lead of the VIP application.

Review may include content experts at any of Idaho's research universities who are not significantly involved in the GEM3 project. External experts will include but are not limited to GEM3 Project Advisory Board (PAB) members.

Selection Criteria

VIP course applications will be considered by the GEM3 leadership team based on the following criteria:

- Clearly related to relevant GEM3 research topics;
- Likelihood of meeting basic standards of VIP courses: vertical, accessible, tied to a faculty member's scholarship;
- The extent to which the course can provide multi-disciplinary/interdisciplinary training and experiences;
- The quality of a brief plan to recruit diverse students to the course;
- Degree to which the course holds promise of being sustainable over the long-term (5+ years);
- Instructor(s) qualifications and past record of success in mentoring and teaching;
- Geographic distribution of VIP courses at multiple institutions across the state.



Questions?

Please contact the VIP coordinator on your campus:

Boise State University:

Idaho State University:

University of Idaho:

Donna Llewellyn, donnallewellyn@boisestate.edu

Janet Loxterman, loxtjane@isu.edu

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