



Ted Strickland, Governor
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

Board of Regents

University System of Ohio

Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program

Request for Proposals (RFP)

Fiscal Year 2009

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- RFP Release Date – November 12, 2008
- E-mail Notification of Intent to Submit – December 2, 2008
- Proposals Due – February 6, 2009
- Public Meeting – February 11, 2009; 9:30 am - 12:00 noon
- Awards Announced – March 12, 2009

*Funding Decisions to be made by the
Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents*

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Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program

Request for Proposals

1. Overview

1.1. Introduction

America and Ohio are at a crossroads. Will we be a world leader in the development of new high-technology in the twenty-first century? Will we have the ideas and the talent we need to ensure our future prosperity? Ohio's response to these questions includes a major initiative called the Ohio Innovation Partnership (OIP). The OIP has two components: the Choose Ohio First Scholarship and the Ohio Research Scholars Programs.

The passage of the Ohio Innovation Partnership marked a milestone in investing for Ohio's future. Ohio's operating budget, House Bill 119, aims to strengthen significantly the ability of the state and its citizens to compete in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), as well as in medical fields and STEM education. The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program supports undergraduate and/or graduate education for Ohio residents in STEM fields, medicine, and STEM education. The Ohio Research Scholars Program, the other component of the Ohio Innovation Partnership, supports an increase in the number of highly-qualified faculty in critical STEM and medical areas with a special focus on long-term regional economic development.

For universities, colleges and supporting entities in Ohio, the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program presents a unique opportunity to transform the nature of the education being provided. The institutions' success will lie not only in identifying and recruiting Ohio residents as students to science, technology, engineering, mathematics as well as medical fields and STEM education, but also in providing them with the quality and range of educational experiences in these fields through innovative curriculum and program development that support students' academic achievement in STEM, STEM education/teaching, and medical fields, success to timely completion of the degree, participation in graduate study, and support for their successful integration into the workforce of the state.

Ohio has a portfolio economy with no single industry, or cluster of industries, dominating the state's varied economic environment. Although a diverse economy augurs well for economic stability, it poses a significant challenge to the development of effective public policy and strategies for economic growth. To meet this challenge, the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Chancellor, through the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program, intend to establish a premiere model for recruiting and retaining more Ohio residents as students in STEM, medical, and STEM education fields. This model will include the development and implementation of innovative STEM curricula and programs and the formation of strategic partnerships among Ohio universities, industry and state government with the goal of producing a quantum leap forward in production and quality of STEM graduates. Through the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program, the state is allocating an initial investment of \$100 million over the first five years of this program. The first year of competition resulted in seventeen five-year awards averaging \$2.9 million per project.

The colleges and universities selected for funding under either or both programs of the OIP shall undertake sufficient levels of outreach to attract a diverse pool of applicants reflective of the diversity of the state.

2. Statement of Solicitation

This second-year Request for Proposals (RFP) is being issued for grants under the Ohio Innovation Partnership (OIP) that will be awarded to accredited Ohio institutions of higher education to be used exclusively for scholarships¹ for matriculating students who are Ohio residents. Throughout this RFP all references to Ohio students means students who are residents of the State of Ohio.

The Chancellor reserves the right to fund any proposal in full or in part, to request additional information to assist in the review process, to require new proposals from interested parties, to reject any or all proposals responding to this RFP, or to re-issue the RFP if it is determined that it is in the best interests of the State of Ohio. Issuing this RFP does not bind the State to making an award. The Chancellor's staff administers the RFP. The Chancellor reserves the right to adjust the dates for this RFP for whatever reasons are deemed appropriate.

All costs incurred in preparation of a proposal shall be borne by the applicant institutions including lead applicants and collaborating partners. Proposal preparation costs are not recoverable under an award. The State of Ohio shall not contribute in any way to recovering the costs of proposal preparation.

The funding decisions of the Chancellor are final. All lead applicants will be notified in writing whether their proposal(s) meet the requirements specified in the RFP and, therefore, whether their proposals will be submitted to the Chancellor for funding consideration. Lead applicants also will be notified of the outcome of their application(s) at the conclusion of the review process. If requested, lead applicants must attend the public meeting when proposals are discussed and subsequently considered for funding.

If requested, lead applicants selected for funding must attend the Controlling Board meeting when their application for funding is heard.

The Chancellor's staff under the direction of Dr. Harry Andrist, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Programs, will administer all grant awards made under this RFP.

Questions about this RFP, the Ohio Innovation Partnership, and the resulting Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program grants should be in writing and addressed to Dr. Harry Andrist at handrist@regents.state.oh.us.

2.1. Timeline:

- Anticipated RFP release date: November 12, 2008
- E-Mail notice of intent to submit: December 2, 2008
- Proposals due: February 6, 2009
- Public Meeting: February 11, 2009, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon
- Awards Announced: March 12, 2009

¹ 01.06.09 – Originally stated as “tuition scholarship”

2.2. The RFP Process

The RFP process will consist of the following steps:

- Release of RFP;
- E-mail notification of intent to submit;
- Submittal of proposals;
- Public meeting;
- Initial review and evaluation of proposals, including review of additional information submitted upon request;
- Recommendation, decision, and approval of award winners;
- Grant agreement preparation;
- Grant award.

Each of these steps is discussed below.

2.2.1. Release of the RFP

All RFPs covering funding programs administered under the auspices of the Chancellor will be published on the web sites of the University System of Ohio (<http://universitysystem.ohio.gov/>) and the Ohio Board of Regents (<http://regents.ohio.gov/>). Lead applicants must comply with all requirements stated in the RFP.

2.2.2 E-mail Notice of Intent to Submit

Prospective applicants must notify the Chancellor via electronic mail of their intent to submit a full proposal for funding consideration through the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program on or before December 2, 2008. The notice of intent to submit must include a working title and list of anticipated collaborators and be sent to Kristen Geiger, Grants Administrator via e-mail at kgeiger@regents.state.oh.us.

Prospective applicants notifying of their intent to submit shall receive a confirmation response that includes an identification number that must appear on the application cover page of the resulting proposal.

2.2.3. Proposal

It is the responsibility of the lead applicant to ensure that the Chancellor's staff receives proposals in the prescribed manner on or before the published due date. Late proposals will not be reviewed nor considered further. Lead applicants must ensure that proposals submitted in response to this RFP comply with all the requirements set forth in the RFP, especially the general proposal requirements specified in Section 6 of this RFP. Lead applicants are advised to read this RFP carefully to ensure a complete understanding of the proposal requirements. If, after administrative review by the Chancellor's staff, it is determined that certain proposals do not include the required components specified in the RFP, such proposals may not be reviewed further. Decisions at this initial phase of the review process may be made based exclusively on the content and completeness of the proposal. The Chancellor reserves the right to ask clarifying questions, request additional information, and require meetings to discuss the details of the proposal.

2.2.4 Proposal Review

All proposals will be subjected to an administrative review by the Chancellor's staff using the general proposal requirements specified in Section 6 of this RFP. The administrative review will cover compliance with RFP requirements for meeting the intent of the program and satisfying the evaluation criteria. Proposals found to comply administratively with the RFP requirements and program intent will be recommended for consideration for funding by the Chancellor's Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program External Review Panel, which will make recommendations directly to the Chancellor.

The second year of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program involves total awards to universities and colleges of \$50,000,000 to be paid out over the forthcoming five-year period through Fiscal Year 2014. In the current year only one proposal review cycle is planned, however, if the quality and number of proposals during this review cycle does not result in the award of the available funds, a second round of proposal reviews may be held with the release of an appropriately revised RFP.

2.2.5 Public Meeting

The Chancellor shall conduct at least one public meeting prior to deciding awards. At the meeting, a member of the Chancellor's staff shall summarize the proposals submitted for consideration, and each university or college that has a proposal pending shall have the opportunity to review the summary of their proposal prepared by the Chancellor's staff and answer questions or respond to concerns about the proposal raised by the Chancellor's staff.

2.2.6 Recommendations and Funding Decisions

The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program External Review Panel, consisting of experts in the STEM, medical, and STEM education disciplinary areas, will be engaged by the Chancellor's staff to review Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program proposals and make recommendations directly to the Chancellor. The Chancellor's appointments to the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program External Review Panel shall be final. Based on the outcome of the review by the External Review Panel, a recommendation shall be prepared and forwarded to the Chancellor for consideration of funding decisions. The Chancellor shall take into account the evaluations and recommendations made by the External Review Panel and shall exercise independent judgment in making final funding decisions. The funding decisions of the Chancellor are final. If requested, lead applicants must attend the public meeting when their proposals are being reviewed and considered for funding. All lead applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their applications after final funding decisions have been made by the Chancellor.

2.2.7 Grant Agreement Preparation

After a given proposal has been selected for funding by the Chancellor, the Chancellor's staff will seek approval from the State Controlling Board to prepare the final grant agreement that may include changes to the proposal and budget resulting from review findings, actions taken by the Chancellor, state funding changes, or other reasons. As

provided in House Bill 119, any university or college that violates the terms of its grant agreement may be required to repay the award plus interest at the rate specified in section 5703.47 of the Revised Code.

2.2.8 Award

A grant will be awarded based on the proposal as amended with the inclusion of a revised budget or other amended conditions set forth by the External Review Panel or the Chancellor. The grant will remain open for the duration of the project plus a three-year reporting period when annual reports are required. Funding at the requested levels will be contingent upon performance against the stated goals.

2.2.9 Progress Reports and Metrics

Each newly funded Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program institution will be required to implement a continuous assessment plan that evaluates the program at its campus. Grantees are expected to complete the project as described in the proposal as funded and as amended. The Chancellor's staff will assign a project administrator who will work with the grantee throughout the duration of the project. The Chancellor's staff and grantees will develop a series of performance metrics that will be used to measure progress on the grant. Grantees will be required to collect appropriately disaggregated baseline data, to measure progress through the collection and analysis of standardized data elements, and to submit required progress reports that record and evaluate the achievements of the plan within the context of the original goals. Requirements related to project evaluation appear in Appendix A.

In addition to other items deemed appropriate by the reporting institution, the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program progress reports should include the following elements:

- Documentation that the proposed objectives are being met along with a description of the continuous assessment processes used to verify the stated outcomes.
- Demonstration of the significant achievements of the program in terms of the student success outcomes.
- Documentation of how and the manner in which the expertise developed within the program is being, or will be, shared with other institutions in Ohio through professional interactions or consortial agreements.

2.2.10 Mandatory Compliance Issues

The following regulatory requirements apply to all Ohio Innovation Partnership projects:

2.2.10.1 Human Subjects Research Federal Compliance

As appropriate for student assessment purposes, the grantee organization's human subject policies and procedures must be compliant with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 45, Part 46.

2.2.10.2 State of Ohio Compliance

The grant agreement will require the grantee to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws in the performance of the project.

3. Background

3.1 Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program Background

Ohio has chosen to move forward vigorously as an active participant in the national effort to encourage more students to enter science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. On June 30, 2007 the Ohio General Assembly and Governor agreed to dedicate significant state resources to seven STEM-related education investments. A major portion of the new funds are being devoted to attracting students in higher education into STEM fields, including STEM education/teaching, and enhancing the success of these students in order for the state to enjoy the resulting economic benefits of a modern STEM workforce. The significant resources devoted to student scholarships demonstrates that Ohio universities are intended to make a quantum leap forward in STEM curricular innovations, in the number of STEM majors, as well as the quality and total number of the resulting STEM graduates.

Other parts of the overall Ohio program focus on bringing to Ohio more STEM scientists and researchers in higher education as well as making substantive improvements to the pipeline of STEM educators and students throughout the education process from the early grades onward.

All Ohio universities and colleges, both public and private, are invited to respond to this RFP for the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program. The best proposals will include substantive change and innovation in participating institutions' STEM educational programs to support the success of more students who are recruited to these fields. A coalition of universities may make a joint proposal with each proposing advances in STEM education according to its strengths. For example, a team of universities might propose to modernize their "gateway" science courses with the various universities taking the lead in different subjects, such as chemistry and mathematics. Another example could be a two-year institution collaborating with a four-year institution on a modern articulation agreement utilizing particular strengths in teaching, research, internship opportunities and/or service learning of each partner in specific STEM subjects. A group of universities and community colleges might work with industry, government agencies and hospitals to include internships within the curricular offerings. It is a specific objective of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program that at least fifty per cent of the students receiving the scholarships be involved in a co-operative or internship program in private industrial firm or a university laboratory.

The Ohio universities are encouraged to be creative and innovative in establishing forward-looking STEM initiatives that will advance STEM education in Ohio as a national model. In the proposal development process, universities and colleges are encouraged to engage their champions of innovation, who are defined as faculty members who have achieved national and regional visibility for their innovative approaches to STEM education, including those faculty members who have joined the university or college within the past five years.

The universities are encouraged to enlist the help of Ohio business and industry as well as Ohio academic research hospitals and local federal and non-profit research facilities in crafting their proposals since many STEM graduates ultimately will find employment at these locations.

3.2 Current State of the Ohio Economy

According to a study conducted by Deloitte Development LLC in 2005 on behalf of the Ohio Department of Development, the state's political and business leaders have recognized a need to chart a new economic course for Ohio's future

http://www.ohiochannel.org/content_files_system/default/your_state/third_frontier_project/ODOD_051005.pdf.

In today's high-technology global economy, this implies that Ohio must be made more attractive and hence more competitive as a place to do business.

Enhanced productivity will increase Ohio's competitiveness. Workers in the United States lead the world in productivity per worker (*New York Times*, September 4, 2007, page C3).

As the Deloitte study points out, "the task ahead is to draw on the state's history of innovation to develop creative, cohesive, and useful business strategies for promoting and retaining the state's mature core industries while attracting and nurturing new industries and investments."

One such strategy is to insure a deep pool of leading-edge high-tech scientists and engineers. The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program seeks to identify and encourage these potential future STEM professionals at ages early enough to keep them in STEM fields of study through higher education.

In addition to encouraging more students to enter STEM fields, including STEM education/teaching, Ohio seeks to encourage the concept and practice of innovation in the design, development, and implementation of STEM curricula. Collaborative efforts between Ohio universities and Ohio industry can more fully enable this goal to be realized. For example, engineering curricula typically include a senior project-oriented capstone course as well as cooperative education experiences. The best innovation elements of such courses can be translated into other STEM disciplines.

Ohio's industrial leaders have expressed concern about issues related to workforce commitment and skill level. An appropriate university-industry response might include the development of increased student internships and cooperative education experiences as well as enhanced mentoring experiences involving faculty, students, and industrial partners. Universities and colleges are urged to work with industrial groups as partners to identify specific knowledge and skills across STEM fields that their proposals will be designed to address.

Ohio has a highly diverse "portfolio economy." This diversity of industries can work to Ohio's advantage. A university approach might seek to inculcate innovation across a portfolio of fields in their proposals. Industry can help universities by offering more well-coordinated internships. Industry and universities can couple this with well-designed mentoring.

Ohio's industrial strengths indicate that particular emphasis on certain STEM areas would be helpful. "Chemistry is a cornerstone of Ohio's technological innovation."

(Deloitte study:
http://www.ohiochannel.org/content_files_system/default/your_state/third_frontier_project/O_DOD_051005.pdf)

Thus, Ohio universities could encourage robust collaborations with the relevant companies as well as with such organizations as the American Chemical Society to craft nationally pre-eminent degree programs.

The Deloitte study concludes that there is not a “quick-fix strategy” for Ohio’s economic resurgence. Rather, what is needed is a systemic, overall approach. The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program is a signal step in utilizing the long-term strengths of Ohio’s universities in collaboration with Ohio’s business and political communities.

Other Ohio as well as national studies have come to similar conclusions; web links to some of these reports are included below.

3.3 National Context as Revealed in Recent Studies

The Nation is becoming aware of its declining high-tech position and has reacted with programs such as the President’s American Competitiveness Initiative. A report from the American Association of Colleges and Universities crystallizes several elements of this current problem:

- Employers need to be in direct dialogue with students.
- The public has remained silent for too long on what contemporary college graduates need to know and be able to do.
- The rest of the world is surpassing America in the production of STEM graduates.

“Intel Corporation Chairman Craig Barrett has said that 90 percent of the products his company delivers on the final day of each year did not exist on the first day of the same year. To succeed in that kind of marketplace, U.S. firms need employees who are flexible, knowledgeable, and scientifically and mathematically literate.”
(Norman R. Augustine, retired chairman and chief executive of Lockheed Martin Corporation)

How can we prepare all graduates for a world shaped by scientific and technological advances and challenges?

"[S]erious national attention must be focused on attracting, preparing, and retaining qualified and committed teaching candidates. STEM educators should be viewed as a valuable national resource, and the best and the brightest should be encouraged to consider pre-college STEM teaching as a profession." (*A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR ADDRESSING THE CRITICAL NEEDS OF THE U.S. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION SYSTEM*, 2007, National Science Board of the National Science Foundation)

“Together, we must ensure that U.S. students and workers have the grounding in math and science that they need to succeed and that mathematicians, scientists and engineers do not become an endangered species in the United States.” (*The Business Roundtable*)

The Business Roundtable enunciates one clear goal: “Double the number of science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates by 2015.”

Thus, the nation as a whole is coming to understand the imperative of increasing its production of STEM graduates. The inclusion of innovation in STEM higher education is a necessary, modern addition.

Web links to additional Ohio and national studies are listed below:

State of Ohio Report from the Science and Mathematics Education Policy Advisory Council:
<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=333&ContentID=25539&Content=25542>

Industry-Based Competitive Strategies for Ohio (Deloitte study):
http://www.ohiochannel.org/content_files_system/default/your_state/third_frontier_project/ODOD_051005.pdf

College Learning for the New Global Century:
http://www.aacu.org/advocacy/leap/documents/GlobalCentury_final.pdf

The Education for Innovation Initiative:
<http://www.businessroundtable.org/pdf/20050803001TAPfinalnb.pdf>

National Innovation Initiative:
<http://www.compete.org/gi/pdf/CEBrazilPresentationTemplateJuly20052.pdf>

Underrepresented minorities:
<http://www.bestworkforce.org/PDFdocs/BESTTalentImperativeFINAL.pdf>

NSF reports:
<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/seind06/>

<http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/nsb0602/>

National action plan for addressing the critical needs of the U.S. STEM education system:
http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/edu_com/report.jsp

4. Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program Description

The characteristics of the program are:

4.1 Objectives of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program

The primary objectives of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program are to support increased higher education participation and success of Ohio students majoring in STEM, STEM education, and medicine fields through the development and implementation of innovative curricula and programs and, in so doing, to advance the economic growth of each region of the state. By increasing the numbers of STEM and medical graduates, as well as the professional sophistication of Ohio’s technical workforce, it is anticipated that new technology-based business opportunities will be created and new technology-based companies will be attracted to Ohio, each of which

will have beneficial economic impacts for the regions of the state. This program advances these purposes by providing direct scholarship support to current and future higher education students who are pursuing STEM, medical, and STEM education degrees. The Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program is complementary to the other program included in the Ohio Innovation Partnership, the Ohio Research Scholars Program. Both programs develop human talent and statewide capacity for sustained innovation, technology advancement, and the commercialization of new technologies.

4.1.1 Additional STEM Program Development and Fellowship Funding

The National Science Foundation, through its **STEM Talent Expansion Program (STEP)** also supports institutional efforts to increase the number of students receiving associate or baccalaureate degrees in established or emerging STEM fields:

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2007/nsf07570/nsf07570.txt>

Similarly, the National Institutes of Health, through its **Bridges to the Baccalaureate** initiative, provides support to institutions to facilitate the transfer and graduation of students from associate to baccalaureate degree-granting institutions who are members of groups underrepresented in the biomedical science areas:

<http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Research/Mechanisms/BridgesBaccalaureate.htm>

4.1.2 STEM Teacher Preparation

Proposals that address the need to expand the pool of well-prepared teachers in STEM teaching fields and promote exemplary programs of STEM teacher preparation are encouraged. It is anticipated that approximately \$3,000,000 per year of FY 2009 COFSP awards will be made in support of STEM teacher preparation. Such awards will be coordinated with the Ohio Superintendent of Public Instruction. It is recognized that STEM teacher preparation is an evolving field and, therefore, institutions may range across a spectrum of readiness and capacity in their ability to meet as many as possible of the following essential specifications:

- Master's level preparation leading to licensure.
- Mechanisms for recruiting high-caliber students—current college seniors, recent graduates and career changers—with strong academic records, and undergraduate subject matter majors in STEM disciplines.
- Strong collaboration between arts and sciences, education, engineering, and technology faculty in program development and delivery.
- Program faculty composed of academic and clinical faculty, who engage jointly in program planning, design, implementation, teaching, and assessment.
- The STEM program is outcome-based, focusing on educating teachers with the ability to promote student learning in the classroom. The STEM program is field-

based, integrating academic and clinical instruction from the earliest days of the program.

- The curriculum is rooted in STEM subject matter (either in discrete STEM fields or via new interdisciplinary combinations of STEM disciplines) and is geared to the population the teacher will teach.
- The STEM program is standards-based. Evidence is used to promote pupil learning and improve instruction.
- Course work also includes adolescent development and learning, outcome-based curriculum design, classroom management, assessment, and working with parents and communities, among other subjects.
- Preparation extends into the first three years of teaching in urban or rural schools, incorporating induction and mentoring programs that feature on-going school-university cooperation.
- Clear methods of evaluation are provided to monitor program quality, graduates' retention in teaching, and their impact on their students' learning.

Because the emphasis on STEM teaching and learning is an evolving field, Ohio's existing state teacher licensing system may not recognize the kind of innovation that both the legislation and this RFP encourage. This is particularly likely to be the case with respect to teacher preparation for engineering, technology, and/or new interdisciplinary STEM teacher preparation. The Ohio Department of Education is committed to encouraging such innovation and will work with exemplary programs identified through this RFP, and other stakeholders, to make necessary changes in the licensing framework and/or use its experimental program approval powers to create new paths to licensure for graduates of high quality, innovative programs. In this regard, the Chancellor will be consulting with the Superintendent of Public Instruction prior to making his decision on awards in this area.

4.2 Institutional Eligibility as Lead Applicants

All four-year public universities, as well as all independent universities and colleges that are acting in partnership with one or more four-year public institutions, are eligible to compete for state funds as lead applicants to this program in order to implement innovative initiatives designed to recruit, and/or to ensure greater academic success for, students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine as well as STEM education. For the purposes of this RFP, all branch campuses are considered to be a part of and integral to the parent university.

4.3 Institutional Eligibility as Collaborating Partners

All public universities and community colleges, all independent universities and colleges, as well as other public, independent, for-profit, or non-profit Ohio entities, including college access programs, are eligible to serve as collaborating partners to compete for state funds from this program in order to implement innovative initiatives designed to

recruit, and/or to insure greater academic success for, higher education students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine as well as STEM education. There will be no limit imposed on the number of collaborating partners contributing to each proposal nor will there be any limit imposed on the number of proposals that a given institution might contribute to as a lead or collaborating partner.

4.4 Proposal Development Process

Each lead applicant institution is encouraged to engage collaborating partners and regional stakeholders in the proposal development process to insure the relevance of the resulting proposal(s) to regional and statewide economic development goals. Lead applicant institutions may desire to carry out internal reviews to determine the best proposal(s) for submission to this program. Such an internal review process ideally would involve representatives of regional corporate entities, local school systems, and technology leadership councils who serve as collaborating partners.

4.5 Eligible Subject Areas

All higher education undergraduate and graduate STEM areas plus medical and STEM education/teacher preparation are eligible for support under this program. The emphasis is on STEM areas most relevant to the Ohio economy, which would include all degree programs in the physical, biological, and agricultural sciences as well as engineering, computer science, and mathematics, including programs such as two-year technical degrees and four-year technology degrees, as well as those areas covered under STEM education/teaching and a broad interpretation of medical degree programs, such as the nursing and allied health fields.

4.6 Funding

The FY 2009 Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program incorporates total funding to universities and colleges of \$50,000,000 over a five-year period, through FY 2014. For FY 2009 it is anticipated that there will be one review cycle, however, if the number and quality of proposals do not result in the award of the full \$50 million, a second round of competition may be held.

Funds must be dedicated to student scholarships² and must be identified as such on each student's financial aid summary. All costs must directly support the program plan rather than incidental expenses. Also, state funding under this program may not be used for indirect expenses not recovered from the sponsoring organization on a related extramural award. All funds awarded under the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program must be expended in Ohio by organizations identified in the proposal and that have a principal place of business in Ohio.

4.6.1 Indirect Charges

No indirect charges may be applied to these awards.

² 01.06.09 – Originally stated as “student tuition reimbursement scholarships”

4.6.2 Minimum and Maximum Award Amounts

The minimum institutional award amount to be granted by the Chancellor will be \$100,000; and the maximum institutional award amount to be granted by the Chancellor will be \$10,000,000. As provided by House Bill 119, the entire institutional Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program grant must be used for student scholarships only³.

4.7 Term of Agreement

The term of agreement under an award from this program will be five years with three additional years of required reporting. The project period should be five years, during which the funding by the state must be expended. During the remaining years of the grant period, or at least for three additional years, the grantee will be required to submit an annual report detailing the overall status of the project.

4.7.1 Reporting Requirements

Grantees will be required to submit regular reports as specified in the grant agreement. At a minimum, semi-annual performance reports, periodic success stories attributable to the state-funded program, and annual reports for the final three years of the grant period will be required. The lead applicant will be responsible for submitting reports to the Chancellor's staff utilizing the specified mechanism.

4.8 Limits on Numbers of Proposals to be Submitted

There will be no limit imposed on the number of proposals to be submitted by any given institution nor will there be any limit on the number of collaborating partners contributing to each proposal nor will there be any limit imposed on the number of proposals that a given institution might serve as a lead institution on or contribute to as a collaborating partner.

4.9 Project Budget

As provided by House Bill 119, the entire institutional Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program grant must be used for scholarships and not for administrative or other costs. The lead applicant must provide an itemized budget for each year of the proposed grant period, including any funding anticipated for collaborating partner institutions, to demonstrate that the funds being requested will be fully dedicated to student scholarships⁴. To satisfy the 10% minimum cost-sharing as described in section 4.9.2, institutional investments related to curricular innovations must be included in the budget with specific reference to the proposed project plan. Budgetary funding requests must be for specific dollar amounts on a fiscal year basis rather than for a specific number of student scholarships for each academic year. It is important to provide a projected estimate of the total number of Ohio resident student scholarships at each level to be

³ 01.06.09 – Originally stated as “scholarships for tuition only”

⁴ 01.06.09 – Originally stated as “student tuition reimbursement scholarships”

provided if the proposal receives full funding. Ancillary, but essential project expenses, such as costs incurred for the design, development, and implementation of innovative curricula and programs, periodic program evaluation, student assessment, or project management must be covered entirely by institutional cost-share and cannot be incurred as direct project expenses charged against the grant. It should be noted that the project expenses will be closely scrutinized by the Review Panel, as well as the Chancellor, to insure congruence with the major emphasis of this program, which is to develop STEM program innovations that lead to increasing numbers of STEM majors and STEM graduates.

4.9.1 Range of Student Scholarship Awards

As provided in House Bill 119, “In each academic year, no student who receives a Choose Ohio First Scholarship shall receive less than one thousand five hundred dollars or more than one-half of the highest in-state undergraduate instructional and general fees charged by all state universities”, currently four thousand seven hundred dollars.

4.9.2 Cost-Share Requirements

Cost-share is required in the ratio of approximately 1:1 for state funds to dedicated institutional funds. All reasonable institutional operational and capital costs, including ongoing internally funded STEM scholarship programs and previous investments made since July 1, 2008, that are associated with delivering the project outcomes identified in the proposal may be counted as eligible cost-share. **It is a requirement that at least 10% of the institutional 1:1 cost-share be made in cash and be devoted to STEM curriculum and program innovation and project evaluation. Cash cost-share in excess of the minimum 10% that is devoted to program innovations and evaluation, however, will be viewed especially favorably by the Review Panel and the Chancellor.** Participating institutions must make regular cost-share investments in the funded Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program project and will have until the end of the reporting period to meet the full cost-share obligation, which shall be June 30, 2017, on a five-year grant agreement.

4.9.3 Budget Justification

A detailed budget justification must be provided for each fiscal year of the proposed project beginning in either FY 2010 or FY 2011. It is important to provide a projected estimate of the total number of student scholarships at each level to be provided if the proposal receives full funding. As provided by House Bill 119, the entire Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program grant provided by the state must be used for ⁵scholarships.

⁵ 01.06.09 – Originally stated as “tuition scholarships”

4.9.4 Commitment to Future Funding

The Chancellor, subject to Controlling Board approval, may commit to giving a proposal preference for future Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program awards after the current fiscal year, or after the current fiscal biennium, conditionally based on future appropriations from the General Assembly and the lead applicant institution's adherence to the grant agreement it entered into with the Chancellor, including its fulfillment of pledges from other institutional, public, or nonpublic resources.

4.10 Renewal and Continuation Awards

Renewal and/or continuation awards cannot be made to institutions and/or consortia of institutions that received awards in the FY 2008 competition. However, new stand-alone proposals that build upon COFSP FY 2008 awards will be considered if they clearly demonstrate a new and innovative approach that enhances the on-going project with new and innovative developments that will contribute significantly to the total number and success of the STEM students to be recruited.

5. Proposal Evaluation Criteria and External Panel Review

Proposals for scholarship grant awards will be evaluated by the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program External Review Panel, consisting of experts in the STEM, medical, and STEM education/teaching disciplinary areas who live and work outside of the State of Ohio. The evaluation will address the responsiveness of the proposal to the requirements of this RFP and, specifically, to the evaluation criteria described in the following sections. The rating form to be used by the External Review Panel is attached in Appendix B of this RFP. This panel will be engaged by the Chancellor to review Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program proposals and make recommendations directly to the Chancellor. The Chancellor's appointments to the External Review Panel will be final.

Based on the outcome of the review by the External Review Panel, a recommendation shall be prepared and forwarded to the Chancellor for consideration of funding decisions. The Chancellor shall take into account the evaluations and recommendations made by the External Review Panel and shall exercise independent judgment in making final funding decisions. The funding decisions of the Chancellor are final.

If requested, lead applicants must attend the public meeting when their proposals are being reviewed and considered for funding. All lead applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their applications after final funding decisions have been made by the Chancellor.

5.1 General Proposal Evaluation Criteria

In particular, proposals are expected to include the following three required elements:

- The proposed plan will result in significantly increased higher education participation and success of Ohio undergraduate and graduate students majoring in STEM, STEM education, or medical areas.
- The funds being requested will be dedicated to undergraduate or graduate student tuition reimbursement scholarships and will be identified as such on each student's financial aid summary.
- A suitable project evaluation plan will be included to document the successes of the project.

In addition to the three mandatory elements identified above, proposals should encompass one or more of the following optional, yet highly desirable characteristics:

- The proposed plan develops innovative curricula and programs designed by recognized faculty champions of innovation that will enhance the total number as well as success of the STEM students.
- The proposed plan incorporates student internships and/or cooperative education experiences.
- The proposed plan develops mentoring experiences involving faculty, students, and/or industrial partners.
- The plan will result in appropriate ethnic diversity among majors and graduates in the STEM, STEM education, or medical areas with particular emphasis on first-generation, needs-based, and underrepresented groups of students.
- The proposed plan specifically targets timely degree completion and the reduction of attrition rates among majors in STEM, STEM education or medical areas.
- The applicant will demonstrate specific successes by its STEM students and graduates in fields that match the high-technology economic strength of Ohio.
- The proposed plan will increase the recruitment of Ohio residents back into the state in order to enter graduate study in a STEM, STEM education, or medical discipline.

5.2 Specific Proposal Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria legislatively mandated in House Bill 119 and reproduced below will be used to judge a proposal's potential for excellence and qualification for a Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program award:

- (A) The quality of the program that is the subject of the proposal and the extent in which it focuses on the strengths of the lead and collaborating institutions and the extent to which additional resources will enhance its quality;

- (B) The extent to which the proposal is integrated with the strengths of the regional economy;
- (C) The extent to which the proposal is integrated with centers of research excellence within the private sector;
- (D) The amount of other institutional, public, or private resources, whether monetary or nonmonetary, that the proposal pledges to leverage;
- (E) The extent to which the proposal is collaborative with other public or nonpublic Ohio institutions of higher education;
- (F) The extent to which the proposal is integrated with the university's or college's mission and does not displace existing resources already committed to the mission;
- (G) The extent to which the proposal facilitates a more efficient utilization of existing faculty and programs;
- (H) The extent to which the proposal meets a statewide educational need;
- (I) The demonstrated productivity or future capacity of the students or scientists to be recruited;
- (J) The extent to which the proposal will create additional capacity in educational or economic areas of need;
- (K) The extent to which the proposal will encourage students who received degrees in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medicine from two-year institutions to transfer to state universities or colleges to pursue baccalaureate degrees in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medicine;
- (L) The extent to which the proposal encourages students enrolled in state universities to transfer into science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medicine programs;
- (M) The extent to which the proposal facilitates the completion of a baccalaureate degree in a cost-effective manner, for example, by facilitating students' completing two years at a two-year institution and two years at a state university or college;
- (N) The extent to which the proposal allows attendance at a state university or college of students who otherwise could not afford to attend;
- (O) The extent to which other institutional, public, or private resources pledged to the proposal will be deployed to assist in sustaining students' scholarships over their academic careers;

- (P) The extent to which the proposal increases the likelihood that students will successfully complete their degree programs in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medicine or in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medical education;
- (Q) The extent to which the proposal ensures that a student who is awarded a scholarship is appropriately qualified and prepared to successfully complete a degree program in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medicine or in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or medical education.

The Chancellor believes the legislative criteria above will be fully satisfied if projects supported by this program create academic STEM programs that are highly innovative in nature.

6. General Proposal Requirements

Proposals must be submitted in the following manner:

- One original paper copy marked as “Original.”
- One electronic copy (PDF preferred) submitted via electronic mail to Kristen Geiger, Grants Administrator at kgeiger@regents.state.oh.us on or before February 6, 2009.⁶
- One CD-ROM containing one PDF and one WORD-compatible file of the proposal. Do not include multiple PDF or WORD-compatible files containing individual proposal sections. The proposal must be completely contained on the CD-ROM in one PDF and one WORD-compatible file.
- Proposals may not be submitted via fax.⁷
- Original proposal and CD-ROM must be received by the Chancellor at the following address on or before the due date:

Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

Ohio Board of Regents

30 East Broad Street

36th floor

Columbus, OH 43215

Attention: “Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program”

- The narrative section of the proposal must not exceed fifteen (15) pages.

⁶ 01.06.09 – Originally stated as “uploaded on <http://uso.edu/cofsp09proposals>, no sooner than January 16, 2009.”

⁷ 01.06.09 – Originally stated as “fax or email”.

- The non-narrative portions of the proposal must not exceed fifty (50) pages.
- Original proposals are to be submitted on 8.5 x 11-inch paper.
- Margins must not be less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch on all sides.
- Font must be 10 point or larger with no more than 6 lines per inch.
- All pages must be numbered consecutively using the format "Page # of total number of pages" (e.g. Page 2 of 10)
- The proposal title and lead applicant name must appear at the bottom of each page.
- Proposals should not include color figures that cannot be understood when photocopied in black and white.
- The first page of the proposal must be the standardized applicant information form and title page found in Appendix C to this RFP.
- Do not include a cover, or cover letter, other than the applicant information form and title page.
- Proposals must be stapled or clipped once in the upper left-hand corner and must not be bound.

6.1 Trade Secrets

Lead applicants and collaborating partners are strongly discouraged from including any information in the proposal that qualifies as a trade secret. All information submitted will be considered public information pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 149.43 and not exempt from disclosure unless identified as a trade secret. Any assertion of trade secrets information must be clearly identified, and the basis for the assertion must be included.

6.2 Order and Content of Proposal Sections

- **COVER PAGE:** The first page of the proposal must be the completed standardized applicant information form and title page found at the end of this RFP.
- **SUMMARY:** Prepare and include an abstract that is no more than one page that summarizes the anticipated academic outcomes of the project. Keep in mind that the abstract may be used, in whole or in part, within various public documents released by the Chancellor's staff.

- **BUDGET:** The lead applicant must provide an itemized budget for each year of the proposed grant period that includes funding anticipated for collaborating partner institutions.
- **NARRATIVE:** The proposal narrative must not exceed fifteen (15) pages in total length.
- **NON-NARRATIVE:** All non-narrative sections of the proposal combined must not exceed fifty (50) pages.

CHOOSE OHIO FIRST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

COFSP awardees shall provide the Chancellor:

A one-time baseline data report, due November 15, 2009, that contains:

- Identification of current STEM disciplines at the institution
- Number of STEM majors currently offered at the institution
- Number of STEM majors currently offered that will be directly involved with the funded project
- Number of STEM graduates by discipline over the past five (5) years
- Number of STEM graduates by discipline that will be directly involved with the funded project over the past (5) years.
- Current attrition rate, by STEM discipline

Annually, beginning as of July 30, 2010, and accompanying fiscal year end financial and progress reports, the following student data:

- Cooperative Education participation by STEM discipline
- Internship participation by STEM discipline
- New graduates entering graduate school in the same STEM discipline
- New graduates entering graduate school in another STEM discipline
- New graduates entering graduate school in a non-STEM discipline
- Number of Ohio resident undergraduates, who are working or attending universities out of state, recruited back to Ohio to attend graduate school
- Number of STEM graduates entering Ohio workforce in the same STEM related area
- Number of STEM graduates leaving Ohio for work
- Attrition rate by discipline
- Effectiveness and impact of the proposed innovation
- Other data to be collected as requested in writing by the Chancellor

APPENDIX B

CHOOSE OHIO FIRST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

FY 2009 Program

Review Panel Rating Form

Please score the review questions below in half point increments using a range of 5.0-0.0, where 5.0 is the highest possible score, as follows:

Score = 5.0-4.0 implies a high level of agreement with a positive response to the question.

Score = 4.0-2.0 implies a moderate level of agreement with a positive response to the question.

Score = 2.0-0.0 implies a minimal level of agreement with a positive response to the question.

1. Are the STEM programs chosen to receive scholarships at all of the participating universities/colleges currently of high academic quality, and will the requested additional resources significantly enhance their future quality?

Score:

Comments:

2. Does the proposed program emphasize innovations related to: a) redesigning the STEM gateway courses; and/or b) developing course materials for students in STEM areas; and/or c) developing model programs for STEM teacher preparation; and/or d) enhancing STEM student learning through internships, cooperative education experiences, or mentoring?

Score:

Comments:

3. Does the proposed program meet a statewide educational need, and is the proposed program integrated with the strengths of the regional economy and regional centers of research excellence within the private sector?

Score:

Comments:

4. Do the proposed admissions' criteria ensure that a student who is awarded a scholarship is appropriately qualified, and will the proposed program of study significantly enhance students' ability to successfully complete their baccalaureate degrees in a cost effective and timely manner?

Score:

Comments:

5. Are the academic programs chosen to receive scholarships clearly integrated with the university/college's mission, and does the proposed plan of action facilitate a more efficient use of existing faculty and academic programs?

Score:

Comments:

6. Is the amount of institutional, public and private resources pledged to the proposed program sufficient to achieve the proposal's objectives, and will these resources sustain the students' scholarships over their entire program of study until graduation?

Score:

Comments:

7. Does the proposed program enhance all of the participating institutions' ability to attract an ethnically diverse student population who are eligible to receive these scholarships, and will the proposed plan of action attract students who otherwise could not afford to attend a university and/or college, especially first-generation students?

Score:

Comments:

8. Will the proposed plan of action enable the university/college and its partnering institutions to increase the recruitment of Ohio residents back into the state to pursue graduate study in STEM, medical, or STEM educational disciplines,

and/or will the proposed plan of action encourage two-year STEM graduates to continue on for a baccalaureate degree, and/or will the proposed plan of action encourage current non-STEM students to become STEM majors?

Score:

Comments:

9. Will the proposed plan of action increase the state's or the region's capacity in educational or economic areas of need?

Score:

Comments:

10. Are metrics proposed to demonstrate specific successes by STEM graduates in fields that match the high technology economic strengths of Ohio?

Score:

Comments:

Rank this proposal in relation to the other proposals you have read with regard to how well this proposal will increase the higher educational success of Ohio undergraduate and/or graduate students majoring in STEM, STEM education, or medical areas (circle the appropriate one).

Top tier of program statements

Middle tier of program statements

Bottom tier of program statements



Board of Regents Appendix C - Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program
University System of Ohio
Fiscal Year 2009
COVER PAGE

1. LEAD APPLICANT INFORMATION

INSTITUTION:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP CODE:

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL INFORMATION

NAME:

EMAIL:

FAX:

PHONE:

PROGRAM DIRECTOR INFORMATION

NAME:

EMAIL:

FAX:

PHONE:

2. PROPOSAL INFORMATION

PROPOSAL NO.:

TITLE OF PROPOSAL:

LEAD APPLICANT ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT(S) INVOLVED:

3. PROJECT BUDGET

STATE FUNDS REQUESTED:

INSTITUTIONAL COST SHARE:

4. COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS (IF APPLICABLE)

5. INSTITUTIONAL CERTIFICATION AND ENDORSEMENT

The signature of the lead applicant institution's president below certifies that the information contained in this proposal is accurate and, further, the institution endorses the objectives of the Choose Ohio First Scholarship Program by agreeing to make the specific investments and carry out the specific project(s) outlined in the attached proposal.

President:

Signature: _____

Date: