

NASA EPSCoR -- Phase 3

A Research Infrastructure Development Project

SPECIAL TRAVEL FOR AEROSPACE RESEARCHERS and STUDENTS (STARS)

A NASA-BoR Program

2007 – 2010 Application Guidelines

SPECIAL TRAVEL FOR AEROSPACE RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS (STARS)

A NASA EPSCoR – BoR RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

2007 - 2010

I. INTRODUCTION

The Louisiana Board of Regents has received a Research Infrastructure Development (RID) grant from the NASA EPSCoR program. One of the purposes of this grant is to help the state's researchers make contact with NASA researchers. In particular, this program stresses collaborative ventures between the state's researchers and NASA researchers at the NASA field centers or headquarters. The goal of the RID award is to (a) acquaint LA researchers with the NASA centers and their research personnel and (b) foster development of joint research projects between LA researchers and NASA researchers. In pursuit of these goals, we are offering the following subprogram:

Special Travel for Aerospace Researchers and Students (STARS) supports travel to a NASA facility to meet with NASA researcher(s) or program manager(s); requires prior contact with NASA personnel. See <http://phacts.phys.lsu.edu/EPSCoR/STAR>

(Note: The DART subprogram is available for project initiation.)

II. NASA MISSION DIRECTORATES

The NASA **Mission** is:

To pioneer the future in space exploration, scientific discovery, and aeronautics research

To achieve this Mission, the NASA program of exploration, discovery and research has been re-organized into Mission Directorates, following the President's 2004 announcement of the new *Vision for Space Exploration*. All NASA subprograms must relate to and support one or more of these Directorates. Likewise, all programs supported by NASA EPSCoR must also support these new NASA Directorates. In addition, all programs must align with and support the *Vision for U. S. Space Exploration* - - see (www.nasa.gov/pdf/55583main_vision_space_exploration2.pdf).

The current Mission Directorates are:

- **Aeronautics Research** - - *Enable a safer, more secure, efficient, and environmentally friendly air transportation system.*

- **Exploration Systems** - - *Direct the identification, development, and validation of exploration systems and technologies.*
- **Science** - - *Exploring the Earth-Sun system, our own solar system, and the universe beyond.*
- **Space Operations** - - *Extend the duration and boundaries of human space flight to create new opportunities for exploration and discovery.*

More information about the NASA Mission Directorates can be found at <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/hq/organization/index.html>. Each Mission Directorate has a unique set of goals, objectives, and strategies that addresses the requirements of its primary external customers. Although NASA's broad mission is driven by the Space Act, the specific programs that are conducted within its Directorates, and the priorities placed on them, are driven by the directives of the Administration and Congress, and, therefore, change over time. Current specific content for the Mission Directorates is presented within their own Strategic Plans available on the web. (<http://www.education.nasa.gov/about/nasaent/index.html>.)

In addition to the Directorates, NASA's **Office of Education** coordinates education efforts from K-16, including educational products and technology. As stated in the 2006 *Education Strategic Coordination Framework*, (<http://education.nasa.gov/about/strategy/index.html>) the Education Office has three **Goals**:

- to strengthen NASA and the nation's future workforce
- to attract and retain students in STEM disciplines
- to engage Americans in NASA's Mission

The National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program and the NASA EPSCoR program are both managed through the NASA Office of Education. Thus, emphasis on workforce development (to influence the "pipeline" of a highly trained future workforce that will lead NASA into the Exploration Era) means that the involvement of students in research projects is highly desirable and is strongly encouraged.

Each project under this award must be related to one of the above Mission Directorates. The PI and NASA center sponsor should discuss the relationship, which must be described in the project narrative. (For more information on the Directorates consult the NASA web sites.)

III. STARS - - SPECIAL TRAVEL FOR AEROSPACE RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS (STARS)

The key to building better ties with NASA centers is to foster researcher-to-researcher communications. The major impediment to this has been, traditionally, lack of travel support, and STARS is designed to remove this impediment. STARS will support the travel of LA researchers to NASA centers (for up to a week) to meet and interact with center research groups or to NASA HQ (up to three days) to interact with program managers. It is intended to provide

sufficient time for a detailed interchange of ideas and capabilities and for planning mutually beneficial projects.

ELIGIBILITY:

Travel is not restricted to faculty members. Administrators, post-doctoral associates or, in some cases, graduate students may also participate. Travel to NASA HQ is also envisioned to enable researchers to interact with program managers and discuss participation in NRA's or AO's, but HQ trips are limited to three days in Washington. (Generally, travel for only a conference is excluded. If in doubt contact the project director for STARS.)

A communication (e-mail is acceptable) with NASA will be required before a STARS award is approved for a trip to a center. For NASA HQ, names of the NASA managers to be visited must be provided.

AWARD:

No travel advances will be made for this program. Travel may be handled directly by the BoR. In this case, travel funds will be disbursed only after the traveler submits a travel reimbursement form and final reporting documents. Reimbursement will be made through the Board of Regents, using their forms and process.

Alternatively, the BoR may elect to send a subaward to the traveler's institution. In this case, the traveler's institution will be responsible for handling the travel reimbursement and insuring that the travel report is submitted.

In either case, the travel must conform to Louisiana State Travel Regulations. (see <http://www.state.la.us/osp/Travel/TravelGuide/docs/TravelGuide02.pdf>)

DEADLINE:

Proposals will be accepted at any time and will be reviewed monthly. Applicants must be faculty or research staff members at one of Louisiana's colleges and universities. (If travel is for a graduate student, that person's supervisor would need to be the applicant.) Up to three researchers can be supported to travel to the same site for the same meeting. Requests should be submitted 1 - 2 months in advance of the planned travel to allow time for processing.

APPLICATION:

Applications must include:

- Name and address of person(s) to be visited.
- Purposes of trip including description of projects/areas to be discussed.
- Approximate dates of travel.

- Estimated costs for the trip (i.e. Airfare, lodging, per diem, rental car, etc.) (Note: Use of a rental car may require prior approval from BoRcontact Jim Gershey (Jim.Gershey@regents.la.gov) if you will need a rental car.)
- Letter/e-mail from the NASA contact/host or, for HQ visit, names of personnel to be contacted.
- Curriculum vita (2 page max.) for the traveler (and PI if not the traveler).
- Signature of the Authorized Campus Representative agreeing for the university to the proposal.

There are no special forms to be used for STARS applications.

Proposals (hardcopy or PDF file, the latter with scanned official signatures) must be sent to:

STARS Travel Request
 John P. Wefel
 Department of Physics and Astronomy
 364 Nicholson Hall
 Louisiana State University
 Baton Rouge, LA 70803-4001

For Questions Contact: Wefel@phunds.phys.lsu.edu
 225-578-8697

DELIVERABLES:

Following the trip, each traveler must submit a brief report (1-2 pages) on the results of the trip (who visited, labs/facilities seen, discussions held, prospects for joint endeavors, etc.). This is to be submitted at the same time as the travel voucher requesting re-imbursement.

IV. STARS - STUDENT INTERNSHIP SUPPORT (SIS)

A new component being introduced into STARS is Student Internship Support. A STARS-SIS award may be made to a student who:

- a) Works with one of the supported DART 2 projects or the NASA EPSCoR Research projects, and
- b) Meets all eligibility requirements for the respective NASA Internship (or Academy), and
- c) Is selected in the national competition.

The goal of SIS is to further enhance workforce development and to increase the student's capabilities and motivation so that s/he can provided added value to a research project following

the internship experience. (We realize that this may not always be possible given both course scheduling and the time-line for the research project in which the student is engaged.) SIS will involve a summer stipend of \$5,000. plus round-trip travel (est. \$1,500.) for a total cost of \$6,500. (Fall or spring internships would cost ~\$9,000.) One SIS award per year is anticipated.

Applications should be received from the student's mentor (as PI), signed by the Authorized Institutional Representative, as soon as the internship application is submitted to NASA. The SIS application should include the NASA application plus a discussion of how this SIS award will help the DART 2 or Research Team project from which the student originates. Applications will be ranked and the highest ranking applicant who is selected by NASA will be supported.

STARS-SIS funds will be transferred from the BoR to the student's institution (with faculty mentor as PI) who will be responsible for distributing the stipend funds and arranging travel to/from the internship site.

Applications should be sent to the address listed previously and labeled "STARS-SIS." Following the internship a brief report on activities, outcomes and experiences must be submitted through the BoR reporting system.

