JANUARY 2019 – REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program Faculty Scholars Program

Program Description
The Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program (IISG) Faculty Scholars Program is a professional networking and development opportunity to support faculty from institutes of higher learning in Illinois and Indiana who wish to develop extension, education, or communication capacities related to their scholarly interests. Applicants can request up to $12,000 to support activities that further the IISG mission to empower southern Lake Michigan communities to secure a healthy environment and economy.

One of IISG's long-term goals is to help build a community of researchers and outreach professionals working on issues related to Lake Michigan. The Sea Grant Scholars Program is designed to help build this community by introducing researchers to a variety of these issues, as well as affected stakeholders. In addition, the program is intended to help scholars develop innovative, fundable proposals for future work in the region.

The Sea Grant Scholars Program consists of a program introduction phase and a proposal-development phase. The introduction phase will take place during summer, 2019. During this phase, scholars will participate in two, day-long networking and learning events at sites in and around southern Lake Michigan. At these events, scholars will interact with IISG stakeholders and staff members to 1) understand critical Lake Michigan issues, 2) understand the role IISG plays in helping address these issues, and 3) brainstorm about how scholars might support ongoing activities to address these issues. Afterwards, scholars will develop a preliminary product that can support a large proposal. The preliminary product may be initial data, a detailed literature review, a completed needs assessment, a description of a research protocol, or other, similar products. Scholars are encouraged, but not required, to work directly with IISG communication, education, outreach, and extension staffers while developing this product. The preliminary product is the deliverable for the first phase of the Scholars Program.

Next, during the proposal-development phase, scholars will develop a proposal to submit to an external funding agency. The proposal should combine research and outreach to address an IISG-approved topic that is relevant to IISG's Strategic Plan. IISG approval is required for the proposal topic and scholars are encouraged, but not required, to work directly with IISG communication, education, outreach and/or extension staffers while developing the proposal. The full proposal is the deliverable for the second phase of the Scholars Program.

We encourage faculty members from all disciplines to apply to the Sea Grant Scholars Program. IISG is also committed to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. The full IISG values statement can be found at www.iiseagrant.org. If you have questions about the Scholars Program, please contact IISG Research Coordinator Carolyn Foley (cfoley@purdue.edu).

Program Timeline
- February 22, 2019: Initial applications due to IISG.
- Mid-to-late March, 2019: Review of applications and notification of scholars. Scholars work with IISG staff to finalize budgets, including matching requirement (see below).
- May 1, 2019: Project initiation date.
- May–August, 2019: Introduction phase, including two mandatory day-long networking events and development of preliminary product.
- September 27, 2019: Preliminary product due.
- October 2019–April 2020: Proposal-development phase, including potential for further interactions with IISG staff members and additional professional development activity(ies).
- May 31, 2020: Project completion date. Final proposals must be completed or submitted to an external funding agency.

Application Materials
1. Cover page. Include the applicant's name, affiliation, address.

2. Statement of interest. Statements of interest should be a maximum of four pages and should describe why the applicant is interested in the Scholars Program, how the program fits into career goals, and how those goals mesh with those of the IISG Strategic Plan. In addition, the statement of interest should include the following information:
   a. 1–3 preliminary product ideas that the scholar might develop through participating in this program. We anticipate that these ideas may be vague at this point, but we would like to have a good sense of applicants' areas of interest. This will help us evaluate program fit and plan the networking events.
   b. A list of potential external funding competitions that the applicant intends to target with the full proposal, which will be developed by the end of the Scholars Program.

3. Preliminary budget requests. Applicants can request costs related to summer salary, indirect, fringe, travel, printing, publication and documentation, etc. Up to $10,000 can be put toward salary and associated fringe. Budgets must include travel to the mandatory activities described above. Successful applicants must demonstrate 50% match (1 non-federal dollar for every 2 dollars requested). Budgets for successful applicants will be finalized after scholars are selected.

4. Two-page applicant CV.

Submission
Applications should be saved as a single PDF and emailed to iisgres@purdue.edu by 6:00 pm EST on February 22, 2019. Naming format for PDF file should be ApplicantLastName_IISGFac2019.pdf. Include "2019 Faculty Scholars" in the subject line.

Application Review

The application materials will be rated by external reviewers for fit and potential success based on the following criteria:

Statement of interest (35%)

Considering the applicant's past and proposed work, what is the potential fitness to IISG's strategic plan? Is the proposed work likely to make a substantial contribution to one or more of the IISG focus areas (i.e., healthy coastal ecosystems, resilient communities and economies, environmental literacy and workforce development, and/or sustainable fisheries and aquaculture)? Given the applicant's history and application materials, how likely is it that they will develop a successful proposal to an external funding agency as a part of the Scholars Program? For applicants who have not worked on relevant topics before, how likely is it that their past experience will translate into future work?

Likelihood of developing partnerships or products that help IISG achieve strategic goals (30%)

Successful applicants will ultimately be asked to develop new, or expand existing, products or partnerships to help IISG achieve its strategic goals. Considering the information in the application package, is the applicant likely to develop preliminary products that will help IISG achieve its strategic goals? IISG's strategic goals include:
- Habitat, ecosystems, and the services they provide are protected, enhanced, and/or restored.
- Land, water, and living resources are managed by applying sound science, tools, and services to sustain ecosystems.
- Coastal communities use their knowledge of changing conditions and risks to become resilient to extreme events, economic disruptions, and other threats to community well-being.
- Water resources are sustained and protected to meet existing and emerging needs of the communities, economies, and ecosystems that depend on them.
- Aquaculture programming focuses on making fish farms in Illinois and Indiana productive and profitable and environmentally responsible.
- Tourism and recreation are supported and enhanced through new and improved resources.
- An environmentally literate public is informed by lifelong formal and informal opportunities that reflect the range of diversity of our communities.
- A diverse and skilled workforce is engaged and enabled to address critical local, regional, and national needs.

Scholarly record and additional relevant experience (30%)

How strong is the applicant's scholarly record? Keeping in mind the stage of their career (i.e., early-, mid-, late-career), have they been successful by traditional metrics (i.e., funded proposals and scholarly publications)? Do other metrics or experiences suggest the scholar is likely to be a good fit for the IISG Faculty Scholars Program (e.g.,

education, past work experience, extra-curricular activities, honors and awards, written and oral communications, interest, etc.)?

Appropriateness of the preliminary budget (5%)
Does the preliminary budget (including 50% match) seem sufficient to support the applicant's activities in the Scholars Program? Does it include support for travel to the required activities?

The external panel will be comprised of extension and communication personnel, plus stakeholders relevant to the PI's topic areas of interest. After panelists have evaluated applicant suitability for program admission, IISG administration will review the strongest applicants and select one or more scholars based on the external reviewers' scores and overall programmatic fit.