



Established Program to
Stimulate Competitive Research

ND EPSCoR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Development of NATURE Sunday Academy STEM Modules
Issued: March 25, 2022
Deadline: 5:00 pm CDT, April 22, 2022

Purpose:

The ND EPSCoR State Office's mission is to support efforts of participating institutions of higher education across the state that result in increased science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) faculty capacity and competitiveness and a stronger, more diverse STEM pathway that produces our next generation workforce, educators, and researchers.

One of the ND EPSCoR State Office's outreach components is the [Nurturing American Tribal Undergraduate Research and Education \(NATURE\) program](#). To encourage American Indian middle- and high school students to pursue STEM degrees and STEM careers, ND EPSCoR offers half-day long active-learning STEM modules on the tribal college campuses called NATURE Sunday Academies.

Description:

ND EPSCoR is currently soliciting [NATURE Sunday Academy](#) STEM module proposals of up to 500 words from faculty members for the 2022-23 academic year. Successful faculty from ND University System institutions will be required to travel to each Tribal College/University (TCU) in North Dakota on four Sundays during the academic year (in the months of September, October, November, December, and March, specific dates TBD) to deliver their STEM module. The STEM modules developed by successful TCU faculty will be presented during the "non-travel" months of January and February as All-Site STEM modules delivered simultaneously by the NATURE coordinator at each TCU.

Each successful faculty member/team will receive a \$1,000 stipend for participation in ND EPSCoR's NATURE Sunday Academy* and up to \$800 in materials for these five outreach activities. Faculty members/teams who travel to the four TCUs located in Belcourt, Fort Totten, Fort Yates, and New Town to deliver their STEM modules will receive up to \$1,500 in expense reimbursement. Prior NATURE Sunday Academy STEM modules can be viewed at:

<https://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu/ndep/nature/sunday-academy/stem-module-topics/>

**Successful faculty members/teams are required to present their STEM module to the TCU NATURE Coordinators and K12 teachers from participating Tribal High Schools during an in-person workshop at NDSU June 14-16th.*

Eligibility:

STEM faculty from Dickinson State University, Mayville State University, Minot State University, North Dakota State University, University of North Dakota, and Valley City State University are eligible to develop STEM modules, which they will deliver to American Indian middle- and high school students.

STEM faculty from Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Nueta Hidatsa Community College, Sitting Bull College, and Turtle Mountain Community College, are eligible to develop STEM modules, which TCU NATURE Coordinators will deliver to American Indian middle- and high school students.

Proposal preparation guidance:

Lesson proposals should consist of no more than 500 words and include the following:

- Name of faculty member(s), department, and university
- Description of the topic
- Learning goals or outcomes
- Description of the hands-on activities

Proposal submission deadline:

Please submit proposals by email to: Julia Bowsher, ND EPSCoR NATURE Sunday Academy, Co-Coordinator at Julia.Bowsher@ndsu.edu by 5:00 pm CDT, April 22nd, 2022.

Primary evaluation criteria:

- How well the STEM topic is presented
- The potential for the activities to spark participants' interest/engagement
- How well the activities are developed
- How well the topic relates to the NSF RII Track-1 themes of cellular systems, computational science, and materials science.

Secondary evaluation criteria:

- Collaborative proposals between multiple faculty members are also encouraged.

Announcement of successful proposals:

Awards are contingent upon availability of ND-ACES project funds from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the State of North Dakota. Modules will be announced starting April 30 and will continue until all openings are filled.

Questions regarding a proposal submission should be directed to ND EPSCoR's NATURE Sunday Academy Co-Coordinator Britt Heidinger (britt.heidinger@ndsu.edu) or Julia Bowsher (Julia.bowsher@ndsu.edu). If you have any questions regarding the applicability of your lesson plan/activity, please don't hesitate to contact us.