



Established Program to
Stimulate Competitive Research

ND EPSCoR REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS Development of NATURE Sunday Academy STEM Modules

Issued: April 6, 2020

Deadline: 5 pm May 4, 2020

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

One of ND EPSCoR'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.

ND EPSCoR is currently soliciting NATURE Sunday Academy STEM module proposals of up to 500 words from faculty members for the 2020-21 academic year. Successful faculty from ND University System institutions will be required to travel to each Tribal College/University (TCU) in North Dakota on five Sundays during the academic year (in the months of September, October, November, December, and March) 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 five TCUs located in Belcourt, Bismarck, 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 [via video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic] to the TCU NATURE Coordinators, K12 teachers from participating Tribal High Schools, and K12 teachers who will be developing K12 lesson plans from the selected STEM modules at the ND EPSCoR NATURE Sunday Academy workshop, June 9-11, 2020.*

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, Turtle Mountain Community College, and United Tribes Technical College are eligible to develop

STEM modules, which TCU NATURE Coordinators will deliver to American Indian middle- and high school students.

Proposal Submission Deadline

Please submit proposals to: Julia Bowsher, ND EPSCoR NATURE Sunday Academy, co-Coordinator at Julia.bowsher@ndsu.edu by 5 pm May 4, 2020.

Proposal preparation guidelines:

- Name of faculty member(s), department, and university.
- Description of the STEM topic.
- Learning goals or outcomes.
- Description of the hands-on activities.
- Proposal has a maximum of 500 words

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.

Secondary evaluation criteria:

- Priority will be given to STEM module topics related to the themes of cellular biology, computational science, and materials science.
- Collaborative proposals between multiple faculty members are also encouraged.

Announcement of successful proposals:

Selected STEM modules will be announced starting May 11 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).