

The National Science Foundation: Funding Opportunities for CS Faculty through the CCLI Program

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Background

A new program in undergraduate education at the National Science Foundation is the Course, Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI) program. CCLI has two tracks that are of particular interest to CS faculty members. They are the Educational Materials Development (EMD) and the Adaptation and Implementation (A&I) tracks. The focus of the EMD track is to develop, test and implement new materials or practices for national dissemination. The focus of the A&I track is to adapt and implement existing innovative materials or practices within a particular institution.

Both of these tracks offer opportunities for funding for CS faculty concerned about improving the quality of CS undergraduate education. Projects can encompass a broad range of activities, from individual courses and laboratories through comprehensive projects that impact entire curricula or programs across multiple departments or institutions. Funding can be requested for all items normally supported by NSF, such as equipment and personnel. The next CCLI program deadline date is June 7, 2000, making the seminar very timely for people interested in developing a proposal.

Seminar Topics

The seminar will cover a wide variety of topics useful to people considering applying for funding through this program:

- Description and priorities of the CCLI program
- Criteria and levels of funding available for each track
- Examples of CS projects funded in the first two rounds (1998-99)
- Tips on how to write a strong proposal
- Looking at proposals from reviewer prospective
- Additional topics based upon audience background, interests and questions

Seminar Format

The seminar will allow for interaction with the participants. The seminar will present the stated topics and be open for questions at any time. After the presentations there will be time for brainstorming ideas with other attendees and the NSF program officers.

Seminar Facilitators

Dianne Martin is a computer science program officer for CCLI and other programs in the NSF Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE). She is on leave from George Washington University.

Harriet Taylor is computer science and mathematics program officer for CCLI and other programs in the NSF Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE). She is on leave from Louisiana State University.

Margaret Reek has been a reviewer for many NSF DUE programs for over ten years and has facilitated many workshops and seminars on NSF funding. She is a computer science professor at the Rochester Institute of Technology.