ISSN 1430-4171
http://journals.springer-ny.com/chedr
10.1007/s00897970079a

Of Special Interest

Systemic Changes in the Undergraduate Chemistry Curriculum: Emphasis on Adaption and Adoption

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…this initiative is to enhance the learning and appreciation of science through significant changes in chemistry instruction.

The Division of Undergraduate Education at the National Science Foundation announces a new emphasis within the Systemic Changes in the Undergraduate Chemistry Curriculum initiative. Proposals are encouraged that adapt and adopt materials and methodology produced by the five major core projects that currently are supported by the initiative.

The Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE) at the National Science Foundation would like to call your attention to a new emphasis within the Systemic Changes in the Undergraduate Chemistry Curriculum initiative.

ISSN 1430-4171
http://journals.springer-ny.com/chedr
S 1430-4171 (97)06079-2

The purpose of this initiative is to enhance the learning and appreciation of science through significant changes in chemistry instruction. Supported projects are designed to make fundamental changes in the role of chemistry within the institution, including better integration with curricula in related disciplines such as biology, physics, geology, materials science, engineering, computer science, and mathematics. The changes are expected to affect all levels of undergraduate instruction.

This year, proposals are encouraged that adapt and adopt materials and methodology produced by the five major chemistry initiatives. Such proposals may be submitted by single institutions or by coalitions of institutions and should follow the usual guidelines for regular Course and Curriculum Development (CCD) proposals. In addition to the information included in the narrative section of regular CCD proposals, this section should also include: a description of the materials and methods that will be adapted; how the new materials will be employed to affect the target student audience and the existing curriculum at the institution(s); how the proposed use of materials and methods developed elsewhere will enhance the national impact of the original project and promote the goals of the chemistry initiative; and plans for dissemination and evaluation of the modified materials and methods. It is anticipated that about $700,000 will be available to fund 6–10 proposals.

Project summaries and other information for the five major chemistry initiatives, including addresses for their individual Web sites, are provided on the DUE Web site at http://www.nsf.gov/EHR/DUE/programs/ccd/cheminit.htm. More detailed information about the projects can be obtained by visiting their individual Web sites. Potential proposal writers should visit a project's Web site before consulting with the contact person. The 1997 DUE Program Announcement (NSF 97-29) contains information about application procedures for these adapt/adopt proposals in the Systemic Changes in the Undergraduate Chemistry Curriculum initiative. Proposals will be due June 9, 1997.

Large Projects Previously Funded by the Chemistry Initiative

Five core projects currently are supported by the Systemic Changes in the Undergraduate Chemistry Curriculum initiative. We ask that you consult the project information offered online (on the DUE Web site and the project Web sites themselves) before contacting project PIs or personnel directly.

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ChemLinks (9455918), centered at Beloit College.

ModularChem (9455924), centered at the University of California-Berkeley.

Molecular Science (9555605), centered at the University of California-Los Angeles.

Establishing New Traditions (9455928), centered at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Workshop Chemistry (9455920), centered at CUNY City College.