

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)  
United States-Russia Program: Improving Research and  
Educational Activities in Higher Education  
(CFDA 84.116S)

*FY 2008 New Grant Awards and Related Awards by Award Number*

**Stanford University (California) - P116S080001**

**Title: U.S.-Russia Educational Program on Global Economics Policy**

Partners: State University-Higher School of Economics (Russian Federation)

Stanford University will collaborate with the State University-Higher School of Economics (SU-HSE) to develop a joint United States-Russian Federation educational program in global economics.

Four groups of faculty at Stanford will work together to provide broad expertise in and exposure to this collaboration: Stanford University School of Education's economics of education program, the Stanford Center for International Development (SCID), which is affiliated with the economics department, members of the economics department, and the Stanford Center of Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (CREEES).

The two-year collaboration will develop common curricula and teaching methods for the training of economists in global economics, with special focus on developing a Master's (MA) degree in global economics, including courses based on problem-based learning and competence-oriented approaches to the economics of development policy, financial policy integrated with trade policy, finance and risk management, human capital economics, and environmental economics. SU-HSE will send faculty members to collaborate with Stanford faculty to review their proposed MA program, adapt curricula and evaluation systems for courses in areas of global economic policy important to the Russian higher education system and to observe the teaching of economic courses at Stanford and other California university settings, such as at the University of California at Berkeley and Los Angeles, San Jose State University, and others. SU-HSE faculty will also have the opportunity to study how public and private universities' economics departments in the United States recruit, train, and help economic students find positions in the labor market.

Stanford will send faculty to SU-HSE to teach a series of seminars using elements of the new curricula and to refine with SU-HSE faculty the courseware and evaluation instruments based on feedback from SU-HSE students. Based on SU-HSE student performance, Stanford faculty will also participate with SU-HSE faculty in reviewing Stanford's reformed undergraduate economics curriculum and evaluation system.

The Stanford Center of Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies will take the lead in sponsoring a series of seminars with visiting SU-HSE faculty for Stanford undergraduates studying economics and international relations. The seminars will focus on economic issues in Russia. Their objective will be to promote interest among Stanford social science

undergraduate students in studying Russian language and Russian economic policies and will be tied in with Stanford's Russian language program and its overseas studies program in Russia. A similar set of seminars to be held at SU-HSE with Stanford faculty will introduce SU-HSE students to United States economic policy issues.

A third important product of this collaboration between Stanford and SU-HSE will be the development of a Web site for open source courseware in global economic policy subjects to make available to other Russian Federation (RF) universities. The Web site will draw from United States university experiences in open source courseware/distance learning. To better understand how to introduce this courseware widely in the RF, Stanford and SU-HSE will collaborate on a joint research project to study the organization and teaching of economics and openness to innovative methods in a sample of RF economics and business departments. The joint research project will also further an important SU-HSE objective of expanding and improving its capacity in empirical policy research.

FY 2008 Award: \$188,718

Total Estimated Award (2 years): \$403,869

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**RELATED FY 2008 AWARDS  
(NOT FUNDED UNDER THIS COMPETITION)**

**University of Nebraska at Omaha (Nebraska) - P116U080001**

**Title: U.S.-Russia Technology, Language, and Cultural Exchange**

Partners: People's Friendship University of Russia (Russian Federation)

Language skills are critical to meet the challenges of global interconnectedness; and a thorough comprehension of vital languages is essential to bring a deeper understanding of literature; educational practices; advancements in science and technology; as well as cultural, economic, and political systems. The growing pace of the global community means that institutions worldwide must prepare students for a lifetime of work that may occur in a global environment. This preparation is important for everyone, including those who may be disadvantaged.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) and Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (PFUR) have formed a consortium to address weaknesses in our respective levels of knowledge, curriculum, and pedagogy. The partnership will contribute to the development of educational opportunities between the two nations, particularly in the areas of mutual foreign language learning through access to and the use of Information Technology (IT) capabilities. UNO-PFUR faculty and teaching staff in the area of applied linguistics and second language acquisition will offer workshops both in Omaha and on site in Russia to train faculty and students in the use and development of language-learning technologies. Student exchanges will provide Russian students the opportunity to access the UNO English as a Second Language program and to participate in workshops on the application of IT to language acquisition. United States students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich Russian culture and language. In addition, UNO-PFUR Information Technology departments will develop an innovative user-friendly, Russian-English multimedia Web portal and will provide special seminars to faculty, teaching staff, and students on how to utilize this Web site to study the Russian and English languages. This Web portal will sustain and institutionalize this program and may be replicated by other universities, businesses, governments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) around the globe.

FY 2008 Award: \$212,215

Total Estimated Award (2 years): \$398,103

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## **University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (Illinois) - P116U080002**

### **Title: U.S.-Russia Partnership in Engineering Curriculum and Online Delivery**

Partners: Bauman Moscow State Technical University (Russian Federation)

This project will establish a program on engineering curriculum development and online delivery. It is a joint effort of the University of Illinois Global Campus (UIGC) (<http://global.uillinois.edu>) and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) at the University of Illinois (UIUC) in the United States and the Bauman Moscow State Technical University (BMSTU) in Moscow, Russia.

The project will introduce BMSTU faculty to the Global Campus Initiative by providing a workshop on developing and teaching science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) courses online and by inviting faculty to participate in a Web-based degree program to prepare them to create and manage online courses and programs. The intent is to assist BMSTU institute with a similar program in Russia. Concurrently, ECE will send several faculty to BMSTU to compare and revise existing curricula.

Specifically, emphasis will be placed on: (1) benchmarking BMSTU and UIUC curricula against premier engineering programs at several institutions worldwide; and (2) beginning the process of incorporating novel aspects of the BMSTU curriculum into UIUC ECE undergraduate and graduate programs.

FY 2008 Award: \$197,612

Total Estimated Award (2 years): \$400,000

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