

(g) Institutional Commitment for Your GAANN Proposal

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(g) *Institutional commitment.* The Secretary reviews each application for evidence that—

- (1) The applicant will provide, from any funds available to it, sufficient funds to support the financial needs of the fellows if the funds made available under the program are insufficient;
- (2) The institution's social and academic environment is supportive of the academic success of students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds on the applicant's campus;
- (3) Students receiving fellowships under this program will receive stipend support for the time necessary to complete their courses of study, but in no case longer than 5 years; and
- (4) The applicant demonstrates a financial commitment, including the nature and amount of the institutional matching contribution, and other institutional commitments that are likely to ensure the continuation of project activities for a significant period of time following the period in which the project receives Federal financial assistance.

Answer These Questions

1. How will you support GAANN fellows for 5 years?
2. How supportive is your social and academic environment for underrepresented students?
3. How will you ensure that a student does not receive GAANN funding for more than 5 years?
4. How will you meet the 25% matching requirement? How will you use institutional commitment to ensure that project activities continue after the GAANN grant is finished?

Institutional Commitment Needed From...

- **Department**
 - Staff for administrative and budgetary tasks
 - Teaching opportunities for GAANN Fellows
 - Faculty as research and teaching mentors
- **School Dean and Graduate Dean**
 - Cost sharing for matching funds
 - Endorsement of educational objectives
- **Financial Aid Office**
 - Staff to assess graduate student's need and budget
- **Center for Teaching**
 - Staff to work with faculty on teaching training of GAANN students
- **Sponsored Projects**
 - Staff to approve the GAANN grant budget and proposal

Why Would an Institution be Willing to Commit?

- **Department Chair and Faculty**
 - More support for graduate students
 - More competitive and diverse pool of graduate students
- **School Dean and Graduate Dean**
 - Extends current fellowship funds
 - Improved mentoring and time to degree
 - Enhanced diversity
- **Financial Aid Office**
 - More support for financially needy graduate students
- **Center for Teaching**
 - Better training and mentoring for teaching assistants
- **Sponsored Projects**
 - More money to the campus



UC Irvine Was Willing to Commit Because Support of GAANN Fits with Campus Priorities

- Recruitment of **U.S. citizens** and **diverse** students
- **Financial support** of needy graduate students
- **Teaching training**
- **Mentoring**
- **Tracking** of students



Lynher Ramirez, First UCI MSE GAANN Ph.D.
2007, Current Employment IBM

More on Institutional Commitment

- Be sure to identify sources of student support for students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds at your university (academic *and* social)
- Specifically, mention how your campus, your school, and your department demonstrates support for students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds.



- Endorsement by the highest levels of the campus administration can help (Chancellor Drake of UC Irvine, left)



Mecartney Group - Halloween

University of California, Irvine (UCI) Strategy



- It is the priority of UC Irvine to expand diversity
- Financial Aid has one expert officer evaluate all GAANN eligible students
- Formula and template for letter of 25% cost sharing agreed upon by all Chairs and Deans
- Networking (more than one GAANN)
 - Department administrators share effective and efficient accounting strategies
 - **GAANN Oversight Committee** of all GAANN PIs meets each quarter at UC Irvine

GAANN Oversight/Coordinating Committee

- Composition of UCI's **GAANN Oversight Committee**



- GAANN PIs (staff invited also)
 - Graduate Dean
 - Director of the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Center
 - Director of Graduate Diversity Programs
 - University staff member responsible for coordination and arranging quarterly meetings
- This is in addition to departmental/program GAANN committees
 - GAANN Oversight/Coordinating Committee has met quarterly for the last several years (track record)

UC Irvine GAANN Oversight/Coordinating Committee

- Goal to share ideas and challenges
 - Recruitment success 
 - Teaching training and mentoring strategies
 - Challenges in management or fiscal compliance
 - Program evaluation and tracking of grad students
 - Proposal post-mortems 
- Committee feedback to the PIs and staff is intended to strengthen all the GAANN programs on campus, and provides an opportunity to share successful strategies observed in other programs

UC Irvine GAANN

Oversight/Coordinating Committee

- GAANN committee keeps Graduate Dean in the loop (Graduate Dean – meets with other Deans)
- GAANN committee has invited special guests (Financial Aid Director to discuss need assessment)
- GAANN committee has organized events for all GAANN students on campus to build community across disciplines
- Regular meetings ensure that the program objectives of the GAANN program are met and activities of the GAANN program are institutionalized

Questions?

