NSF13-552 Widening Implementation & Demonstration of Evidence Based Reforms (WIDER)

Full Proposal Deadline: July 3, 2013

The goal of NSF WIDER is to transform institutions of higher education into supportive environments for STEM faculty members to substantially increase their use of evidence-based teaching and learning practices. The program broadly defines evidence-based teaching and learning practices to include more extensive use of modern laboratory methods, proven distance education methods (or hybrid designs incorporating both face-to-face and distance methods), and improved approaches to motivating student interest in STEM and supporting students' efforts to succeed in STEM courses. In all cases, the primary goal of WIDER is to increase substantially the scale of these improvements within and across the higher education sector in order to achieve (1) Improved student learning; (2) Increased numbers of students choosing STEM majors, particularly from demographic groups underrepresented in STEM; and (3) Improved retention in the first two years and to graduation of all STEM majors.


WIDER awards will be made in 4 tracks (1) Planning grants; (2) Institutional Implementation grants; (3) Community Implementation grants; (4) Research grants. An organization may submit only one Planning or one Institutional Implementation proposal for a given deadline. There are no restrictions on the number of Community Implementation or Research proposals that an individual or organization may submit.

At this time, the Office of Undergraduate Education (OUE) is seeking only to determine interest in the limited submission tracks of WIDER. Please circulate the program announcement as appropriate and let me know by the end of the day on Friday, May 10, of any interest in your college in submitting to either WIDER's Planning or Institutional Implementation track (names of lead faculty). Additional information will be requested only if an internal competition is needed and OUE will coordinate the institutional selection process.