Request for Proposals

2017 Bisgrove Scholar Program

Early Career Awards

SUBMISSION RECEIPT DEADLINE (Electronic):

By 5:00pm (MST), Tuesday October 4, 2016

http://www.sfaz.org/grant-opportunities
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2017 Bisgrove Scholar Program

1. Introduction

The SFAz Board of Directors (BOD) intends to fund up to ten (10) Bisgrove Scholar Early Career Awards, to start no later than fall, 2017.

Bisgrove Early Career Scholar candidates will be implemented by the nominating Research Performing Institutions (RPIs) in Arizona, with the goal of attracting exceptional individuals who have demonstrated substantial achievement in science and/or engineering fields.

Each RPI will submit their top candidates, not to exceed seven (7), along with requisite justification for these nominations and proposed professional development plans for each, as described in this RFP.

The SFAz BOD will choose the Scholars based on the quality of the candidates, the quality of their research proposals, the strength of their professional development plan and the potential for effectively working with the scholar to realize the stated objectives.

2. Objectives

The Bisgrove Scholar Program intends to:

• Help the RPIs in Arizona recruit and retain the highest quality academic early career scientists and engineers.
• Support a period of innovative research in strategic areas that enhances the Scholar’s career, attracting industry and federal funding.
• Provide the Scholar with a mentoring framework enabling her/his professional success.
• Encourage Scholars to work in new or emerging fields of important innovative and entrepreneurial and use-inspired research.

3. Eligibility

Only one proposal per institution, nominating up to seven (7) Scholars, is permitted. The President or CEO of the RPI, or the individual designated by the President or CEO, will be the Principal Investigator (PI). A requirement of the proposal is a professional development plan. Eligible candidates for a Bisgrove Early Career award must be one of the following:

• An individual with no prior tenure track faculty or equivalent experience and employed by the RPI after the date of the release of the 2017 Bisgrove RFP, (March 20, 2016). Ideally, the selected scholar may go directly from the PhD degree to a tenure track position. But it is understood that the feasibility of this is field dependent and many successful candidates will have acquired one to two years of postdoctoral experience. Under extenuating circumstances such as a significant shift in research focus, nominees with up to three years postdoctoral experience may be considered.

• An individual working in Research Performing Institutions not following the classic university style tenure career structure but an equivalent career structure. An explanation of this equivalent career structure should be included with the application.

Disciplines of research and teaching are to be in science and engineering.

The Scholar must be a citizen or a non-citizen national of the United States; have been lawfully admitted for permanent residence (i.e., possess a currently valid Permanent Resident Card USCIS Form I-551, or other legal verification of such status); or be on an H-1B visa.

4. Mentorship and Career Development Requirements

Mentoring and career professional development best practice has not been arrived at arbitrarily. More effective strategies for success have emerged from the collective wisdom of a distinguished Faculty Advisory Committee acting in concert with the Bisgrove Scholar over the lifetime of the award. In that context, it is important to document the planned Advisory Committee.
4.1 Primary Research Mentor

The *Primary* Research Mentor selected by the Scholar must be a tenured professor or research performing institute equivalent with a proven record of success as an independent research scholar and concomitant mentoring accomplishments.

4.2 Secondary Research Mentors

The Scholar will be responsible for selecting two or more *Secondary* Research Mentors to form an effective Advisory Committee. Preference may be given to individuals with complementary skills and experience or who belong to an affinity group of interest to the Scholar. These mentors can be at the same or other AZ RPIs or from industry

5. Ethical, Legal and Social Responsibilities of Scientific Research

The RPI is expected to affirm that Bisgrove Scholars are fully aware of the ethical, legal and social responsibilities of scientific research within the existing framework mandated by federal funding agencies. Include an outline in the proposal of how this training will be provided.

6. Funding

SFAz support will be contingent upon a continuing record of mutually satisfactory performance on the part of the Scholar, mentors, and the prospective RPI.

6.1 SFAz Contribution

The total grant amount awarded by SFAz to the RPI for the purpose of supporting an Early Career Scholar will be $100,000 per year for two years. The total package is $200,000 per Scholar, of which $20,000 (10%) is an institutional allowance provided to the RPI. The award is not to be used for salary or benefits but to augment the research and teaching start up package.

6.2 RPI Contribution

Awardee RPIs shall provide: a salary and a competitive start-up package for Early Career Scholars; and appropriate employee benefits within applicable ABOR and/or RPI policy. They are also responsible for recruitment and waiving of overhead costs. SFAz recognizes that this constitutes a substantial contribution to the Program on the part of RPIs.
7. Proposal

7.1 Proposal Content and Order:

- **RPI Cover sheet**: includes all requested information, and signed by the cognizant authority for the RPI [see Appendix I](#).
- **Institutional statement of justification, purpose and commitment** to uniquely develop the Scholars professionally as part of the Program. Each nomination must include a summary of the formal RPI commitment letter, clarifying the role of the Bisgrove Award in enhancing rather than replacing any part of this commitment (2 pages).
- **Proposed research project**: (1.5 page per nominated early career scholar)
- **Mentoring plan and schedule for the Scholar**: addresses how to foster intellectual and financial independence after the two year period; and a performance review plan (1 page).
- **Promotional plan**: clearly recognizes SFAz, so the program may publicly and professionally benefit (1 page).
- **Scholar Applications format**: see Appendix II; up to seven nominees (7) per Institute.

7.2 Proposal Review

Each candidate’s research proposal will undergo peer review. The independent Peer Review Panel will then submit their funding recommendations to the SFAz Board of Directors for final review and Bisgrove Scholars selection, December 2016. In making their selection, the Board will give priority to candidates who have previously collaborated with industry researchers or have a clear plan to do so as a Bisgrove Scholar.

Proposals not in compliance with any details specified in this document, or the SFAz Terms & Conditions ([http://www.sfaz.org/grant-opportunities/](http://www.sfaz.org/grant-opportunities/)) are ineligible for SFAz awards and will be returned without comment or review. The final award decision rests with SFAz.
7.3 Proposal Submission and Deadlines

Proposals will only be accepted with a fully completed original cover sheet that has been signed by the appropriate Institution signatory authority.

The complete application will include:

One (1) Electronic submission

- Send application in one PDF file that includes scanned cover page with required signatures to: bisgrove@sfaz.org
- Title of the file according to RPI name

Deadline for receipt of electronic submission

By 5:00pm (MST), Tuesday October 4, 2016

Questions regarding Science Foundation Arizona Bisgrove Scholar Program:

Contact – Dr. Mary O'Reilly, Scientific Programs at moreilly@sfaz.org

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APPENDIX I

Proposal Cover Sheet (this is a sample, please download original from SFAz website)

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<th>1. TITLE OF PROPOSAL (15 word limit)</th>
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I certify that the information herein is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I confirm acceptance of and agreement with the SFAz Terms and Conditions of Grants & Contracts including that the applicant organization attests and ensures the applicant principal investigator(s) meets SFAz eligibility requirements and the project is in full compliance with the SFAz Terms & Conditions.

SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL NAMED IN 4       DATE

*Key point of contact, responsible for program management
**Institution's financial representative/department
APPENDIX II

Bisgrove Scholar Application

Narrative and formatting protocols to be used by Scholars & RPIs in final submission

1. The narrative should be single spaced, 12pt font; maximum length 8 pages; and:

   • Describe career interests in the light of your background and past achievements, which makes you an exceptional Bisgrove Scholar candidate. (Maximum length: 1 PAGE)
   • Explain proposed plan of research/scholarship and why it would be a good match for your institution, and why a Bisgrove award would, in the long term, not only benefit you but also the state of Arizona; describe experiences, if any, you have had disseminating scientific knowledge to a variety of audiences and any interactions with the community at large, including any teaching experience. (Maximum length: 5 PAGES.)
   • Discuss your professional mentoring expectations and the mentor-mentee relationship in view of your prior experiences/observations. (Maximum length: 1 PAGE)
   • The Bisgrove Scholars Program allows for selection of several mentors, including a primary research mentor, as well secondary mentors in a complementary discipline and/or of individuals belonging to an affinity group of interest to the Scholar. Identify preferred mentors and justify your choices in terms of the research plan described in the application. (Maximum length: 1 PAGE)

2. Curriculum Vitae: with references, for up to 5 major relevant publications, annotated in 1-2 sentences to state their significance

3. Official transcripts: from all colleges and universities attended

4. Three faculty recommendation letters: each should address aspects of intellectual merit, broader scientific value and social contexts; entrepreneurial nature of the research to be undertaken; and the effectiveness of the communications skills of the candidate