



2013-2014  
**Undergraduate  
Research Symposium**



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

## ICFNJ Undergraduate Research Symposium

Generously Funded by



THE COUNCIL OF  
INDEPENDENT COLLEGES

### Background:

The Independent College Fund of New Jersey seeks to partner with corporate and foundation supporters to promote programs that increase the number of students who enroll in their member institutions to pursue STEM disciplines and that raise the retention rate of students enrolled in STEM programs. ICFNJ plans to assist its member institutions in addressing the need for more graduates in STEM majors by offering an Undergraduate Research Symposium. ICFNJ is inspired by the success of similar events in other states and supported by the feedback from ICFNJ members that research opportunities must be developed to sustain interest and enhance student development. ICFNJ is further encouraged by the role a research symposium can play in responding to the three key areas identified for improvement to retain students in STEM academic programs in Siemens Foundation report, January 2012:

- programs that inspire students and allow growth of youth's natural interest in these subjects reinforced through hands-on and inquiry-based science learning;
- students access and promote interaction with professionals who can provide positive, real-life contact to STEM careers making them more accessible – use of mentors who share similar interests and backgrounds; and
- introduce students to the myriad of career opportunities available to them in STEM fields demonstrating that career success is defined in multiple ways.

### PROJECT GOALS:

The educational and professional development of students in STEM majors is the primary goal of the ICFNJ Undergraduate Research Symposium with the three key areas identified by the Siemens Foundation serving as guiding objectives. Students will have new learning opportunities, develop presentation & communications skills, build peer networks, and engage with industry professionals. Complimentary to the direct student experience is the shared experience in the classroom and lab that results from hands-on learning and translates into class participation, transfer of knowledge and peer support. The positive reinforcement from research students to peers will help build enthusiasm for STEM majors. The improved undergraduate experience is integral to meeting the pressing national need for more STEM majors. The Science Symposium allows students to participate early in their college experience to combat one of the reasons cited for leaving a STEM major "desire for increased time spent in well-resourced labs."

### Application Process and Awards:

ICFNJ will provide **up to 28 awards (a maximum of \$2,500 per project)** according to the Participant Guidelines. Participation in the Undergraduate Research Symposium is based on a competitive application process offered only to New Jersey independent college students as outlined in the eligibility criteria.

The Participant Guidelines and the application forms have been attached and will be available on the ICFNJ website, [www.njcolleges.org](http://www.njcolleges.org), beginning May 6, 2013. The information packet is provided for distribution to students through Department Deans and Faculty members who engage with students in research.



2013-2014  
Undergraduate  
Research Symposium



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

To allow students an opportunity to conduct research during the summer and through the Fall semester, ICFNJ has established a deadline of June 10<sup>th</sup>. Please note the full time table for participants below.

**PROJECT TIMETABLE:**

May 3, 2013	Call issued for Research Proposals
<b>June 10, 2013</b>	<b>Deadline for Proposal Submissions</b>
July 1, 2013	Awards announced
July 2013	Funds issued to member institutions
September 10, 2013	Interim Report on Research Activities Due
October 31, 2013	Interim Report on Research Activities Due
December 10, 2013	Research concludes
January 10, 2014	Abstract of research findings due to ICFNJ
March 2014	Research Symposium – Date and location to be announced

**Submissions:**

All completed submissions should be sent to:

Independent College Fund of New Jersey  
Attn: Research Symposium Review Committee  
797 Springfield Avenue  
Summit, NJ 07901  
Tel.: 908/277-3424 Fax: 908/277-0851  
Email: [luhrig@njcolleges.org](mailto:luhrig@njcolleges.org)

Please refer any questions to MaryAlice W. Breuninger, Development Officer,  
[mabreuninger@njcolleges.org](mailto:mabreuninger@njcolleges.org).