

## **Request for Proposals to Host the 2011 NARST Summer Research Institute for Doctoral Researchers**

The National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST) is soliciting proposals to host the 2011 NARST Summer Research Institute for Doctoral Researchers (SRI). The purpose of the SRI is to support the education and professional development of doctoral students involved in the study of science education.

### **Background & Goals**

NARST sponsored the first SRI in 2009. Based on the success of this initial offering, the organization committed to sponsor future institutes on a biennial basis. Organizers of the 2009 event created a model for the organization and structure of the institute based loosely on the European Science Education Research Association (ESERA) Summer School. Central to this model is a week-long event that provides opportunities for science education doctoral students and established researchers from diverse programs to share perspectives, discuss current research, and collaborate. The established researchers, most likely faculty members, serve as mentors for the students. Students and mentors interact through a variety of formats including small groups dedicated to the discussion of student research projects, seminars and workshops. Proposers should plan to build from the successes of the model created for the 2009 SRI but are encouraged to customize their proposals in order to maximize attainment of SRI goals. The following list identifies the primary goals for the NARST SRI. Proposers may supplement these goals with program-specific aims.

- Support development of doctoral student research practices including those related to research design, research methods and communication of research;
- Support doctoral student understanding of the science education research community and their positioning within the community;
- Develop networks of emerging and established researchers in science education.

### **Funding**

NARST will provide up to \$25,000 to support the organization and implementation of the 2011 SRI. These funds may not be used to pay for indirect operating expenses typical of many federal grants. Other sources of funding may include student fees and contributions from the host institution. The \$25,000 organizational contribution is meant to minimize costs for participating students. However, modest fees to be paid by students or their home institutions are likely necessary for successful implementation of the SRI and may be helpful in ensuring that participants are committed to SRI activities and expectations. Proposers are encouraged to seek additional support from the host institution. This support may come in the form of direct financial contributions and/or in-kind contributions of staff time, facilities, or other resources that support successful implementation of the SRI.

### **Proposal Requirements**

Proposals should be organized with the following components: *Program Description*, *Budget*, *Curriculum Vitae*, and *Supplemental Materials*.

### **Program Description**

The Program Description should not exceed five pages including tables and figures. The Program Description should address all of the issues presented in the following list.

- Identify the organizer or organizing team and discuss the qualifications of this individual or group. Members of the organizing team should be current members of NARST.
- Identify the host institution. Discuss its capacity and commitment to host the SRI.
- Discuss how the proposed event will meet the SRI goals outlined in the introductory section of this call for proposals and any other aims specific to the proposed program.
- Present a plan for organizing and structuring the experience. This plan should identify foci for the SRI as well as the structure(s) that will be used for organizing the event. Proposers should offer a model for how student and faculty participants will interact and present a tentative schedule of activities.
- Identify plans and procedures for recruiting and selecting both student and faculty participants. This discussion should explicitly highlight the number of students and faculty that are expected to participate.
- Describe facilities to be used as a part of the proposed SRI. This description should include facilities that will be used for the group and mentoring activities central to the SRI as well as lodging arrangements for student and faculty participants.
- Present a plan for evaluating the SRI.

### **Budget**

The budget section must clearly identify expected expenses as well as sources and amounts of funding. Proposers should include evaluation expenses within the budget. The detailed budget should be accompanied by a budget justification.

### **Curriculum Vitae**

A two-page curriculum vitae (CV) should be included for each member of the organizing team. The CV should highlight the individual's research and mentoring experiences.

### **Supplemental Materials**

Proposals may include supplemental materials that provide evidence of capacity for successful implementation of the SRI. For example, proposers are encouraged to submit a letter indicating institutional support from the host institution.

### **Additional Requirements**

The individual or team that hosts the 2011 SRI will be expected to submit an interim report on planning and recruitment activities by March 15, 2011. The individual or team will also be expected to submit a final report by October 1, 2011. The final report must include results of the evaluation efforts, the plans for which are identified in the proposal. The interim and final reports should be submitted to the Chair of the Research Committee. These reports will be reviewed by the NARST Research Committee and the Board of Directors. The final report will be made available to the NARST membership, and proposal teams for future SRIs will be encouraged to review this report.

## **Submission Information**

Proposals should be prepared and submitted electronically. Organizing individuals or teams should prepare proposal materials in a single pdf document. If it is not possible to include a Supplemental Material resource within the primary proposal file, it may be submitted separately as an electronic document. Proposal files should be submitted via email to the Co-chair of the NARST Research Committee (Troy Sadler, [tsadler@coe.ufl.edu](mailto:tsadler@coe.ufl.edu)). Proposal files should be labeled using with the last name of the lead proposer followed by "sri2011" (e.g., "Sadler.sri2011"). If a supplemental file is required a similar format should be used for labeling (e.g., "Sadler.sri2011.supplement1").

To be granted full consideration, proposals should be submitted by August 1, 2010.

## **Review Process & Criteria**

The NARST Research Committee will review all proposals and forward a recommendation to the NARST Board of Directors for final approval. In reviewing proposals, the Research Committee will consider the following criteria: qualifications of the organizers, host institution's capacity and demonstrated commitment to host the SRI, potential to meet SRI goals, organization and structure of the proposed program, plans for recruiting and selecting student participants, plans for recruiting and selecting faculty mentors, proposed site and facilities, evaluation plan, and budget plans. The NARST Research Committee and Board of Directors may contact proposers to request additional information or to suggest changes to the SRI as proposed. Proposers are encouraged to examine the review rubric, available on the NARST website ([www.narst.org](http://www.narst.org)), that will be used in the evaluation process.

## **Resources to Support Proposal Development**

In conducting and evaluating the first SRI, the University of Missouri organizing team, the NARST Research Committee, and Board of Directors learned a great deal. In some cases, these groups developed new understandings of successful approaches; in other cases, the groups identified challenges. Absolute solutions to these challenges may not exist, but organizers of future events will likely benefit from their identification. Findings, lessons learned, and recommendations are presented in two reports both of which are available to the NARST community through the NARST website. The first document is the final report prepared by the 2009 organizing team; the second document is the formal evaluation report prepared by the Research Committee. Both documents are available on the NARST website ([www.narst.org](http://www.narst.org)). All proposers are encouraged to review these reports carefully. Questions about the SRI, this call for proposals, or the review process may be directed to the Co-chairs (Troy Sadler, [tsadler@coe.ufl.edu](mailto:tsadler@coe.ufl.edu) and Stephen Norris, [stephenn@ualberta.ca](mailto:stephenn@ualberta.ca)) or other members of the Research Committee.