

IRIS Early Career Investigators Mentorship Program Request for Proposals – 2/27/13

The IRIS Early Career Investigators (ECI) Working Group is committed to the encouragement and support of mentorship opportunities and the integration of ECIs into their research and education communities. As one step in furthering these goals, the ECI Working Group requests proposals from post-doctoral fellows through pre-tenure faculty to partner with a senior scientist to conduct a research project during 2013. We seek to facilitate research interactions for those who are lone seismologists at their institutions and/or those who would like to have seed funding to complete a “proof of concept” project to assist in the proposal writing process. Both members of the junior-senior scientist pairing must come from an IRIS Member or Educational Affiliate institution, and must not have previously collaborated on a research project, which includes abstracts and publications. It is not necessary that both scientists are seismologists; for instance, a seismologist-geodesist pairing could benefit both scientists and provide the opportunity to learn more about each other’s specialty. An initial list of scientists who are potentially willing to serve as mentors is available at www.iris.edu/hq/eci/mentors.

We envision the mentoring program to begin in 2013, with the junior and senior scientists interacting closely over a 6-9 month period. Interactions will probably begin via visits to each other’s institution but the overall logistics of the collaboration can take whatever form best suits the participants. For example the majority of interactions could be virtual. Both researchers should spend some time at the other’s institution, to increase interactions between the departments. Each ‘visiting scientist’ is strongly encouraged to present their research during a colloquium, and meet with others in the department. Portions of the funds could also be used for fieldwork if deemed necessary.

To apply please submit a joint proposal, which outlines the project with enough background for a non-specialist review panel. The proposal must include a brief timeline and budget justification, rationale for the proposed partnership and how each scientist would benefit from the collaboration, and potential outcomes of the research. Proposals will be rated on both the potential impact of the proposed mentoring relationship as well as the proposed research. The proposal should not exceed five (5) pages.

IRIS will fund 1-2 junior-senior scientist pairings, within a total available program allowance of \$8,000. The funding will be provided to reimburse reasonable and allowable documented travel costs (transportation, lodging, food), in accordance with IRIS travel policies. Selected proposals will be notified, and travel costs will be reimbursed directly via IRIS travel reports. Proposals are due on April 15th, 2013. Applicants will be notified within four weeks of the deadline whether their proposal is successful. A report (1-2 pages) must be submitted to IRIS Education and Public Outreach upon completion of the collaboration to describe how the mentoring program impacted their research and helped accomplish their professional goals.

Questions regarding the proposal process can be directed to Dr. Danielle Sumy (danielle.sumy@gmail.com) and/or Dr. John Taber (taber@iris.edu). Proposals should be emailed as an attached PDF file with the subject line “ECI PROPOSAL” to Dr. Andy Frassetto (andyf@iris.edu).