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41 Professors Receive Awards for New Research

Baton Rouge, La. – The Board of Regents Office of Sponsored Programs announced the Pilot Funding for New Research (Pfund) award recipients for 2013. Forty-one proposals were chosen for funding, which will last through the year.

The Pfund program is administered through the Office of Sponsored Programs but operates under the auspices of the Louisiana Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

EPSCoR is designed to build and expand the science and engineering research, education, and technology capacities in states that have historically received lesser amounts of federal research and development (R&D) funding. As early as FY 1988-89, the Board of Regents was co-sponsoring research projects with NSF and supporting the development of Louisiana's scientific research and educational infrastructure under NSF EPSCoR.

“The ultimate goal of the Pfund program is to enable faculty to become more competitive for federal research funding,” said Dr. Michael Khonsari, Associate Commissioner for Sponsored Programs Research and Development.

Since the program's first competition in 2004, 344 projects have been funded. Both tenured and tenure-track faculty are eligible for Pfund awards, which stimulate and support science and engineering faculty in their exploration of novel research.

A group of over 200 expert reviewers from outside the state selected the recipients after an extensive proposal review process. Each recipient received up to \$10,000 to use towards sharpening his/her research focus and developing cutting-edge techniques. Funds are provided to support students, travel and the purchase of scientific equipment and supplies.

Twelve higher education institutions across the state are home to the 41 awards this year, including:

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Louisiana College, Louisiana State University and A&M College, LSU-Agricultural Center, LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans, Louisiana Tech University, Nicholls State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, Southern University-Baton Rouge, Tulane University, Tulane Health Sciences Center, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and University of Louisiana at Monroe.

Individuals who received Pfund awards in the previous fiscal year were not eligible to apply in this year's competition. The program is offered each year; the number of annual awards is subject to the availability of funds and the quality of proposals received.

The Sponsored Programs division of the Board of Regents administers State and federal programs that provide funds and other resources to Louisiana's post-secondary education community and interacts extensively with institutions and governmental agencies on issues related to post-secondary research and educational enhancement. For more information, and a list of 2013 Pfund recipients, please visit: web.laregents.org

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