

# Pathways for Advancement in Community College Education (PACE) Providing Professional Development in STEM Disciplines

## *Request for Proposals*

DEADLINE DATES:

RFP ISSUE DATE: **(April 8, 2026)**

Last day for questions and answers about this RFP: **(May 27, 2026)**

Proposals due: **(June 17, 2026, 4:30 PM Central Time)**



LOUISIANA  
**NSF EPSCoR**  
ADVANCING GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY IN STEM



## **LOUISIANA ESTABLISHED PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH (EPSCoR)**

### **Sponsored By:**

**The National Science Foundation and the Louisiana Board of Regents**

1201 North Third Street, Suite 6-200

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

(225) 342-4253

[www.laregents.org](http://www.laregents.org)

## **A. Program Overview**

This funding opportunity is made possible through the *Louisiana Networks of Excellence for Tomorrow (LA-NEXT)* project funded by the US National Science Foundation's EPSCoR Collaborations for Optimizing Research Ecosystems (E-CORE) program through a four-year (2025-2029) grant to the Louisiana Board of Regents. The Pathways for Advancement in Community College Education (PACE) program will be administered through the BoR's Office of Research and Sponsored Initiatives and will operate under the guidance of the State's EPSCoR Committee.

The PACE program seeks to contribute to the LA-NEXT vision (see Section A.1) by providing funding to support professional development and continued academic progress of faculty and staff at public and private two-year institutions in Louisiana in STEM disciplines aligned with the [State Science & Technology \(S&T\) plan](#), *FIRST Louisiana*.

### **A.1. Louisiana Networks of Excellence for Tomorrow (LA-NEXT) Overview**

The vision of **LA-NEXT** is to build and sustain strong networks of collaboration, communication, and partnership among the diverse institutions of higher education in the jurisdiction, thus transforming the STEM R&D enterprise of the State. These networks of excellence will extend to K-12 institutions and for-profit, non-profit, academic, and non-academic entities, resulting in a highly diverse research and education environment that will accelerate innovation and enhance economic development in Louisiana. This initiative is a realization of the framework laid out in the [State Science & Technology \(S&T\) plan](#), *FIRST Louisiana*. *FIRST Louisiana* provides a comprehensive statewide approach to science and technology research, development, and innovation, and is a roadmap for future investments in the State. LA-NEXT is led by the Louisiana Board of Regents, which houses the Louisiana EPSCoR office and coordinates all public institutions of higher education in the State.

## **B. General Information**

### **B.1 PACE Program Goals**

- Strengthen STEM education pathways by equipping community college faculty and staff with advanced skills and certifications;
- Increase credential attainment among LCTCS, LSU-Eunice, and Southern University at Shreveport faculty;
- Enhance instructional quality in high-demand STEM fields;
- Ensure community college STEM programs align with industry workforce needs

### **B.2 Eligibility**

Institution: Any two-year institution (public or private) including members of the Louisiana Community & Technical College (LCTCS) System, LSU – Eunice, and Southern University Shreveport.

Principal Investigator: An administrator at the institution with faculty supervision responsibilities (e.g., dean, department head).

**Participants:** Faculty or staff members (full-time and adjunct) who: (1) teach credit-bearing and/or non-credit bearing courses to post-secondary students and (2) request continued professional development aligned with institutional priorities, industry demand and student success goals as appropriate.

**Eligible Disciplines** are those STEM fields that are aligned with the State S&T plan priority areas. For more information about the science and engineering disciplines that are identified as priority areas in FIRST Louisiana, please visit: [State Science & Technology \(S&T\) plan](#).

### B.3 Award Information

The ranges provided below should be used to estimate the overall budget depending on the known or anticipated number of participants at each tier as well as the administrative costs associated with the coordination, tracking, and reporting activities.

Each institution may submit only one proposal; however, that proposal may include multiple faculty and staff nominations across various funding tiers. Each proposal funding request may not exceed \$25,000 in total, of which up to \$5,000 may be budgeted for administrative purposes.

<b>Tier</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Suggested Amount</b>
<b>Tier 1</b>	<b>Foundational PD (workshops, micro-credentials)</b>	<b>\$500–\$1,500 per faculty</b>
<b>Tier 2</b>	<b>Non Graduate-level coursework or certification</b>	<b>\$2,000–\$4,000 per faculty</b>
<b>Tier 3</b>	<b>Graduate-level coursework or certification</b>	<b>\$5,000–\$8,000 per faculty</b>

Allowable expenses under the budget include:

- Graduate-level coursework or degree completion at one of the Louisiana four-year institutions of higher education.
- Industry-recognized certifications.
- Pedagogical training (e.g., online teaching, equity-focused instruction).
- Workshops or conferences directly related to teaching and learning or specialized skills and trades.
- Travel expenses associated with certifications, training, workshops, etc.
- Salaries and fringe may be budgeted up to \$5,000 maximum (for the PI or a supporting staff member) and must be proportional to the time and effort involved in coordinating the proposed activities, tracking the participants, and reporting, and must be fully described in the budget justification.

Funds should be allocated for travel to the LA-NEXT annual meeting.

#### **B.4 Performance Period**

The performance period for PACE is anticipated to be September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2027.

#### **B.5 Deliverables**

- Participation at the LA-NEXT annual meeting, expected to be held in Spring 2027 in Baton Rouge.
- A final report from the faculty participant(s) that summarizes all outcomes of the support and must include documentation of participation, i.e. copy of certificate earned, course credit, etc.

#### **B.6 Proposal Format**

The following proposal requirements must be followed closely. Proposals that do not adhere to all of these guidelines and stipulations will be disqualified. All sections of the proposal must be formatted to a standard 8-1/2" x 11" page; all pages are to be numbered consecutively. Proposals must use 1-inch margins, 11-point font or larger (Arial, Helvetica, or Times New Roman) and single line spacing.

##### **Cover page**

Please use the form provided.

##### **Project Summary (250 words max.)**

##### **Project Description (5-page max.)**

- a. Description of faculty and their development needs.
- b. Expected impact on teaching quality and student success.
- c. The numbers of faculty impacted at each proposed tier, and a description of the payments to be made at each tier (examples of eligible expenses are provided below).
- d. Alignment with industry needs, institutional strategic goals, and the State S&T plan.
- e. Timeline to include estimated start and completion dates.

Please provide a brief narrative describing what makes each faculty candidate appropriate for PACE. Focus on teaching experience, contributions to student success, career readiness, and connections to industry or professional field.

Examples may include:

- relevant classroom or lab experience
- leadership in developing or updating curriculum
- certifications, badges, or credentials earned in their field
- involvement in workforce training or continuing education programs
- partnerships with local employers or industry groups
- applicable grants, or community projects that support student or workforce development
- experiences showcasing the faculty's efforts to serve students in the community beyond the classroom

## **Budget and Budget Justification**

Please use the budget form provided. A budget justification that explains each item in the budget is also required. As stated in section B.3, the maximum budget request per proposal is \$25,000.

Eligible expenses include:

- tuition & fees
- registration fees
- travel expenses for workshops (subject to PPM 49)
- stipends for participating faculty (including associated fringe benefits)
- salaries may be budgeted up to \$5,000 (for the PI or a supporting staff member) and must be proportional to the time and effort involved in coordinating the proposed activities, tracking the participants, and reporting, and must be fully described in the budget justification.

To maximize the impact of PACE funds, institutions may consider waiving F&A costs.

## **Biographical Sketch of the Principal Investigator**

Biographical sketch of the PI must be submitted using the provided form, not to exceed two pages.

### **B.7 Selection Criteria**

Applications will be reviewed according to the criteria listed below.

- **Impact (40%)**: Potential to improve credential attainment and teaching quality within the department or institution.
- **Alignment with Goals (35%)**: How well does the proposal support faculty development and student success.
- **Cost-Effectiveness (20%)**: Proposal should demonstrate strategic planning and long-term benefit to the institution.
- **Completeness (5%)**: Adherence to submission requirements.

### **C. Proposal Submission**

All online submissions must be uploaded as a single PDF document through the LOGAN system. Paper originals or copies will not be accepted. The submission system will automatically close at 4:30 p.m. Central on the deadline date.

After the PI submits the completed proposal to his/her campus' OSP, Institutional Advancement, or Grants Office via LOGAN, confirmation of receipt of the electronic proposal will be e-mailed to the applicant and to the campus. If the confirmation email is not received within 12 hours, the application was not accepted into LOGAN. Please contact the LA EPSCoR office by phone at (225) 342-4253 or by email at [rsi@laregents.edu](mailto:rsi@laregents.edu).

NOTE: The PI is responsible for ensuring that the proposal is complete and correct upon submission to the Board, and no changes may be made to any proposal after the submission deadline. Disqualification of a proposal and/or any reviewer misunderstandings that occur

because proposal contents (including all required forms) are incomplete, out of order, or contain incorrect information are solely the responsibility of the applicant.

The proposal must be submitted to the Board of Regents electronically by the authorized institutional representative (i.e., office of sponsored programs or office of sponsored research) of the PI's institution. Electronic submission by the authorized representative will signify institutional approval of the proposal and acceptance of the requirements outlined in this RFP.

**D. Reporting and Evaluation**

At the conclusion of the contract, the principal investigator shall submit the PACE final report and must respond to the request within 30 days.

**E. Questions about this RFP**

Specific questions concerning this RFP and the requirements set forth herein should be directed **in writing** to [jessica.patton@laregents.edu](mailto:jessica.patton@laregents.edu). Questions will be accepted and answered through **May 27, 2026**. A running compilation of all questions asked about this RFP and all answers provided in response to those questions will be periodically posted on the BoR website at <https://rsi.laregents.edu>.



# Budget Form

ORGANIZATION						
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR						
A. SENIOR PERSONNEL:						
List personnel separately. Indicate number & type of months for each.				Funds	Institutional	Total
A.5-6 show total number Other in brackets.				Requested	Match	Costs
	CAL.	ACAD.	SUMR.			
1						
2						
3						
4						
5	[ ]					
Other Senior Personnel						
6	[ ]					
Total Senior Personnel						
B. OTHER PERSONNEL (show #s)						
1	[ ]					
Post Doctoral Assoc.						
2	[ ]					
Other Professionals						
3	[ ]					
Graduate Students						
4	[ ]					
Undergraduate Students						
5	[ ]					
Secretarial/Clerical						
6	[ ]					
Other						
Total Salaries & Wages (A+B)						
C. FRINGE BENEFITS (if charged as direct costs)						
Total Salaries, Wages, & Fringe (A+B+C)						
D. PERMANENT EQUIPMENT						
(List item & dollar amount for each item exceeding \$5000)						
Total Permanent Equipment						
E. TRAVEL						
1	Domestic (Incl. Canada & U. S. possessions.)					
2	Foreign					
F. PARTICIPANT SUPPORT COSTS						
1	Stipends					
2	Travel					
3	Subsistence					
4	Other					
Total Participant Costs						
G. OTHER DIRECT COSTS						
1	Materials and Supplies					
2	Publication Costs/Pages Charges					
3	Consultant Services					
4	Computer (ADPE) Services					
5	Subcontracts					
6	Other					
Total Other Direct Costs						
H. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (A thru G)						
I. INDIRECT COSTS (Specify rates.)						
Total Indirect Costs						
J. TOTAL DIRECT & INDIRECT COSTS (H + I)						

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR**

DO NOT EXCEED TWO PAGES.

Name:		Position Title:	
EDUCATION (Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education and include postdoctoral training.)			
INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	YEAR CONFERRED	FIELD OF STUDY

**A. Appointments**

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: Starting with present position, list, in reverse chronological order, previous relevant employment.

**B. Recent Publications or Research Products:**

List, in reverse chronological order, the titles, all authors, and complete references for publications during the past five. Limit the list to 5 items total.

**C. Recent Research Presentations:**

List, in reverse chronological order, the titles, all authors, and complete references to research presentations (invited seminars or conference presentations) during the past five years. Limit the list to 5 items total.

### Personal Information

This information is used for reporting purposes to NSF only. All information remains confidential. Provision of this information is voluntary.

PERSONAL INFORMATION	PI
Gender:	
Racial Background: (mark one or more boxes as applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> American Indian or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to answer
Do you have a disability that limits your activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Decline to answer