LA-NEXT Collaboration Enhancement (LANCE)

Strengthening Collaboration in STEM Research

Request for Proposals

DEADLINE DATES:

RFP ISSUE DATE: (**October 23, 2026)**

Last day for questions and answers about this RFP: **(November 13, 2026)**

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

LOUISIANA ESTABLISHED PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH (EPSCoR)

Supported 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

A. Program Overview

This funding opportunity is made possible through the *Louisiana Networks of Excellence for Tomorrow* (**LA-NEXT**) project which is 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 LA-NEXT Collaboration Enhancement (LANCE) seed grant 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 LANCE seed grant program seeks to contribute to the LA-NEXT vision (see Section A.1) by supporting opportunities for faculty awarded an Initiating Growth through Networks and Interdisciplinary Teamwork (IGNITE) to strengthen and build upon the research collaboration.

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 Program Goals

- Increase the involvement of RCU faculty in STEM research.
- Solidify research collaboration networks between faculty at RCUs and those at R1 and R2 institutions in the State.
- Joint external funding for research and peer-reviewed publications.
- Increased access of RCU faculty to the shared research instrumentation and high-performance computing networks within Louisiana.
- Benefit students at both the RCUs and the mentor's institutions through collaborative research.

B.2 Eligibility

Principal Investigator (Mentee): The Principal Investigator (PI) must be a faculty member at a Louisiana institution of higher education classified as a Carnegie Research Colleges and Universities (RCUs) or a Primarily Undergraduate Institution (PUIs).

Mentor: The mentor must be a research-active tenured or tenure-track faculty member or hold a research faculty position at a Louisiana institution of higher education classified as a Carnegie R1 or R2 institution.

Principal Investigator and Mentor team must be a previous recipient of an IGNITE grant.

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 mentee/mentor of a successful LANCE grant will be awarded up to $40,000 as outlined in the proposal budget. At least 60% of the proposed budget must go to the mentee. The performance period of the grant is 12 months.

The budget may be used for expenses justifiable for research collaboration activities between the mentor and mentee. Salary, student support, travel and accommodations, materials and supplies, etc., are examples of allowable expenditures. Any scientific equipment requested must have a strong justification included in the project description. Cost sharing is not required. Both the mentor and mentee should allocate travel funds to attend the LA-NEXT annual meeting (see Section B5). Funds will be made available by contract from the BoR to the Principal Investigator's (PI) institution.

The PI/mentor team may also apply for LA-NEXT Core User Facility (CUF) access grants of up to $2,000, which will cover the costs of using the shared instrumentation facilities within the Core User Facilities (CUF) network established through past NSF EPSCoR Track-1 awards to Louisiana. More information about the CUF network can be found here: https://lamda.rsi.laregents.edu/research/cuf/.

The mentor of a LANCE PI must secure a letter from their Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) indicating approval of the collaborative proposal being submitted on behalf of the PI/mentor team. See template provided.

B.4 Performance Period

The performance period is anticipated to be January 15, 2027 – January 14, 2028.

B.5 Deliverables

- Participation of both the PI and mentor at the LA-NEXT annual meeting, scheduled for April 29, 2027, in Baton Rouge.
- A final collaborative report from the PI/Mentor team detailing the research project and the activities undertaken, the accomplishments of the project, potential impact the project has had (or will have), follow-on proposals in preparation/submitted, and further plans to sustain the collaboration.
- Invited presentations and publications. All such products resulting from LANCE should acknowledge the NSF support using the following statement:
    - This research was funded in part by U.S. National Science Foundation under Grant Number OIA-2437963 and the Louisiana Board of Regents.

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 and have 1-inch top, bottom, and side margins.

Cover page
The faculty mentee must be the PI on the application. Please use the cover page provided.

Project Summary (250 words max.)

Project Description (4-page max.)

a. Summary of accomplishments from the IGNITE grant (1-page max).
b. Description of the continuation of the proposed research topic (2-page max). This should include a description of specific activities, alignment of the research with the State S&T Plan, and timeline for completion of the project.
c. Plan for sustainability of the research collaboration beyond LA-NEXT, including proposed external funding opportunities to target (1-page max).

Budget and Budget Justification
A separate budget and budget justification must be completed by both the PI and mentor. Please use the budget form provided.

Mentor Institution Certification Letter
A letter from the mentor's institution indicating approval of the proposal submission. Please use the template provided.

Biographical Sketches
Biographical sketches of the PI (mentee) and mentor could be submitted using the provided form, not to exceed two pages. The NSF (ScienCV) or NASA Biosketch forms are also acceptable. If one of these biosketches is used, the **mentor** should also provide a Current & Pending Support form.

B.7 Selection Criteria

- Accomplishments from IGNITE project (25%)
- Quality of the proposed continuation research activities (45%)
- Sustainability Plan for the research collaboration including external funding and joint publications (30%)

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.

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 project, the principal investigator shall submit the final project 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. Questions will be accepted and answered through **13 November 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.

LANCE Cover Page

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) NAME:	EMAIL ADDRESS:
PI RANK:	AREA OF EXPERTISE:
PI INSTITUTION:	PI'S DEPARTMENT:
MENTOR'S NAME:	EMAIL ADDRESS:
MENTOR'S INSTITUTION:	MENTOR'S DEPARTMENT:
MENTOR'S RANK:	☐ TENURED FACULTY ☐ TENURE-TRACK FACULTY ☐ RESEARCH FACULTY
TITLE OF PROJECT:	

RELEVANT *FIRST LOUISIANA 2030* PRIORITY AREAS (Check all that apply):

☐ Advanced Manufacturing
☐ Agriculture & Forestry
☐ Biomedical
☐ Cybersecurity
☐ Coastal Restoration
☐ Energy
☐ Resilience & Disaster Recovery
☐ Structural Integrity Assurance

PROJECT SUMMARY (250 WORDS MAX):

INSTITUTION
Authorized Sponsored Programs Representative Office

<Date>

Ms. Jessica Patton
Federal Programs Administrator
Louisiana Board of Regents
1201 North 3rd Street, Suite 6-200
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Ms. Patton:

<*Institution*> agrees to participate as a subrecipient in the proposed project entitled ***"<Title>."*** The <*institution*> portion of the work described in the attached proposal will be under the primary direction of <*principal investigator*>.

The amount requested for <*institution*>'s participation in this research project is ***< budget amount>***. <*Institution*> has reviewed and approved the budget and budget justification for this proposal.

We look forward to a rewarding and productive research effort.

Sincerely,

<Authorized Organization Representative>
<Office of Authorized Organization Representative>

Enclosures: <*Any necessary attachments*>

Budget Form

ORGANIZATION						
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR						
A. SENIOR PERSONNEL: List personnel separately. Indicate number & type of months for each. A.5-6 show total number Other in brackets.	CAL.	ACAD.	SUMR.	Funds Requested	Institutional Match	Total Costs
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 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.

D. Current and Pending Research Funding:

List research grants received within the past three years as PI or Co-PI. For each entry, please provide the title, PI, Co-PI(s), funding agency, amount, and performance period.

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**	**MENTOR**
Gender:		
Racial Background: (mark one or more boxes as applicable)	☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White ☐ Decline to answer	☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander ☐ White ☐ Decline to answer
Do you have a disability that limits your activities?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Decline to answer	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Decline to answer