

**HIGHER EDUCATION CHALLENGE GRANTS  
PROGRAM SUMMARY -- FY 2005**

**Higher Education Programs  
Science and Education Resources Development  
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)  
U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Launched in 1990, the Higher Education Challenge Grants program is administered by the USDA Office of Higher Education Programs under the authority contained in section 1417(b)(1) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(1)). This program is designed to stimulate and enable colleges and universities to provide the quality of education necessary to produce baccalaureate or higher degree level graduates capable of strengthening the Nation's food and agricultural scientific and professional workforce.

The purpose of The Higher Education Challenge (HEC) Grants Program is to strengthen institutional capacities to improve teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences or in rural economic, community and business development, including curriculum, faculty, scientific instrumentation, instructional delivery systems, and student recruitment and retention, to respond to identified State, regional, national or international educational needs.

Projects supported by the Higher Education Challenge Grants Program should: (1) address a State, regional, national, or international educational need; (2) involve a creative or nontraditional approach toward addressing that need that can serve as a model to others; (3) encourage and facilitate better working relationships in the university science and education community, as well as between universities and the private sector, to enhance program quality and supplement available resources; and (4) result in benefits that will likely transcend the project duration and USDA support.

Funded projects should address one or more of the following targeted areas: (a) curricula design and materials development; (b) faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching; (c) instructional delivery systems, or (d) student experiential learning.

Applications may be submitted by (a) U.S. public or private nonprofit colleges and universities offering a baccalaureate or first professional degree in at least one discipline or area of the food and agricultural sciences; (b) land-grant colleges and universities (including land grant institutions in the Insular Areas); (c) colleges and universities having significant minority enrollments and a demonstrable capacity to carry out the teaching of food and agricultural sciences; and (d) other colleges and universities having a demonstrable capacity to carry out the teaching of food and agricultural sciences.

For the FY 2005 award cycle, \$5,133,294 was available for project grant awards after subtracting administrative costs.

A total of 51 different institutions from 38 states submitted 83 proposals requesting \$ 15,773,361. In April 2005, a 24-member peer review panel evaluated these proposals. The peer panel included faculty and administrators from land grant and non-land grant colleges and universities and practitioners from the food and agricultural sciences community.

Funds were available to support a total of 30 awards from 25 institutions in 22 states. Nine projects were formal Joint Project Proposals requiring partnerships between two or more institutions.

The following tables summarize this year's Higher Education Challenge Grants program competition:

<b>Table 1. FUNDS REQUESTED/AWARDED BY EMPHASIS AREAS FY 2005 Higher Education Challenge Grants</b>				
<b>TARGET ACADEMIC EMPHASIS AREAS</b>	<b>NUMBER OF PROPOSALS</b>		<b>AMOUNT OF FUNDS</b>	
	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Awarded</b>	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Awarded*</b>
Agribusiness Mngt. and Marketing (M)	5	1	\$ 437,090	\$ 76,262
Agricultural Social Sciences (S)	4	2	\$ 814,385	\$ 423,625
Agricultural/Bio. Engineering (E)	3	0	\$ 655,150	\$ -
Animal Sciences (A)	3	1	\$ 327,450	\$ 137,772
Aquaculture (Q)	1	0	\$ 372,383	\$ -
Conservation (Including Nat. Res. (C)	13	6	\$ 2,533,902	\$ 770,178
Entomology (Plant) (T)				
Environmental Sciences (L)	1	1	\$ 106,351	\$ 100,186
Family/Consumer Sciences (H)	3	1	\$ 673,631	\$ 117,156
Food Sciences (F)	11	3	\$ 2,350,351	\$ 800,618
General (G)	15	5	\$ 2,936,005	\$ 1,043,004
International (I)				
Nutrition (N)	2	2	\$ 299,310	\$ 281,959
Plant Sciences (P)	8	3	\$ 1,750,837	\$ 641,027
Related Biological Sciences (B)	1	1	\$ 295,392	\$ 278,268
Soil Science (D)	1	0	\$ 149,250	\$ -
Veterinary Medicine (V)	11	3	\$ 1,924,924	\$ 324,808
Water Sciences (W)	1	1	\$ 146,950	\$ 138,431
Other (O)	--	--	--	--
<b>Totals</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$ 15,773,361</b>	<b>\$ 5,133,294</b>

\* Not all projects request the maximum funds allowed per institution under this grant (\$150,000 - Regular Proposals, or \$300,000 - Joint Project Proposals. Note: Projects submitted under Priority Area #1... “Proposals that incorporate multi-college/university approaches to regional or interstate curriculum development, faculty sharing, cross enrollments, joint degrees, or similar methodologies with the potential to encourage regional or national program delivery and reduce instructional duplication and costs.” ...may request up to a maximum of \$400,000.). These amounts represent the total Federal dollars awarded to each lead institution, including the funds that will be subcontracted to collaborating institutions for joint projects. With fund transfer restrictions taken into account, no single institution will receive more than \$150,000 (Regular proposals) or \$150,000 (Joint proposals, or, \$200,000 for Priority Area #1 proposals). All funded projects in this grants program require 1:1 non-Federal matching funds. Matching funds are not reflected in these Federal award amounts.

**Table 2. FUNDS AWARDED BY PRIORITY AREAS  
FY 2005 Higher Education Challenge Grants**

<b>PRIORITY AREAS</b> Referenced in FY 2005 Request For Application Document	<b>NUMBER OF PROPOSALS*</b>	<b>AMOUNT OF FUNDS*</b>
<u>Priority Area #1</u> : Multi-college or -university approaches to regional or interstate curriculum development, faculty sharing, cross enrollments, joint degrees, or similar methodologies with the potential to encourage regional or national program delivery and reduce instructional duplication and costs.	7	\$ 1,640,553
<u>Priority Area #2</u> : Reform mainstream instructional practices and address future needs within the food and agricultural sciences system, including (but not limited to): preparing academic leadership for sustainable change, reshaping curricula for a changing agricultural system, preparing faculty to teach a changing student clientele, or developing new student experiential learning opportunities.	18	\$ 2,738,067
<u>Priority Area #3</u> : Support any of the five, current USDA Strategic Goals or associated thirteen CSREES Strategic Objectives (Note: Most projects also support this area, in addition to either #1 or #2, above.)	5	\$ 754,674
<b>*TOTALS</b> (Projects may actually address multiple priority areas; these numbers reflect the dominant classification.)	<b>30</b>	<b>\$ 5,133,294</b>

**Table 3. FUNDED PROJECT INFORMATION and DESCRIPTIONS  
FY 2005 Higher Education Challenge Grants**

Access the following link: [FY 2005 HEC Funded Projects](#)\* to display project information.  
Data is from the CSREES Current Research Information System database.

\* CRIS URL is = [http://cris.csrees.usda.gov/cgi-bin/starfinder/0?path=fastlink1.txt&id=anon&pass=&search=CG=2005-38411\\*&format=WEBTITLESF](http://cris.csrees.usda.gov/cgi-bin/starfinder/0?path=fastlink1.txt&id=anon&pass=&search=CG=2005-38411*&format=WEBTITLESF)