

# RESEARCHNOTES

Office of the Associate Dean for Research / Culverhouse College of Commerce / The University of Alabama

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For information on funding opportunities and other information related to sponsored research, please visit [research.cba.ua.edu](http://research.cba.ua.edu) or contact Deborah Hamilton (8-2952).

## **FINRA Investor Education Foundation Grant Program**

Through its grant program, the FINRA Investor Education Foundation funds research and educational projects that support its mission of providing underserved Americans with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary for financial success throughout life. In 2008 the foundation is especially interested in applications that focus on the following areas:

1. New marketing and distribution channels for financial and investor education
2. Helping Americans manage their finances and investments in retirement
3. Meeting the financial and investor education needs of underserved audiences
4. Using behavioral finance to improve saving and investing

The FINRA Foundation places a high priority on reaching and engaging a well-defined target audience, and encourages collaboration and partnerships that facilitate effective marketing and distribution efforts. Successful education projects will have measurable impact and reach large audiences in a cost-effective manner.

Preference will be given to projects that can be replicated and sustained beyond the term of grant funding. For research projects, the foundation is especially interested in work that has practical applications in the financial and investor education field.

Deadlines are April 11 and July 12.

<http://www.finrafoundation.org/grants.asp>

## **NSF's Computer Systems Research**

Computer systems are being applied to increasingly demanding applications. The environments in which they function and the resources they manage are increasingly diverse, distributed, and dynamic. While the time scales for control decisions are shrinking, the scale and complexity of the systems are increasing. Further, many of the assumptions behind today's most common computer systems no longer hold. As a result, these systems often fail in unpredictable ways, become compromised or perform poorly. Accordingly, the frontiers of computer systems research must be moved forward, and new bold research directions must be established to draw upon interdisciplinary research capabilities across science and engineering.

The Computer Systems Research (CSR) Program supports innovative research and education projects that:

increase our understanding of large-scale and increasingly data-intensive computer systems and applications, through the creation of new knowledge needed to improve their design, use, behavior, and stability;

capitalize on research opportunities provided by new technologies and new classes of systems;

expand the capabilities of computer systems by developing highly innovative new ways to exploit existing technologies;

lead to systems software that is quantifiably more reliable, easier to use, and/or more efficient; and

produce innovative curricula or educational materials that better prepare future generations of computing professionals.

CSR-funded projects will enable significant progress on challenging high-impact problems, as opposed to incremental progress on familiar problems.

Collaborative CSR projects that actively involve industry or other academic communities are particularly welcome. For example, to stimulate breakthroughs in *human-aware* computer and software systems and applications, multi-investigator, multidisciplinary proposals are encouraged. Further, CSR PIs should describe credible plans for demonstrating the utility and potential impact of their proposed work, for example, through empirical prototypes disseminated to and evaluated by the community.

The FY 2008 competition invites innovative, forward-looking research projects in the following three areas:

Distributed and Mobile Systems and Services (DMSS);

Parallel Systems, Computing and Execution (PSCE);  
and

Embedded, Hybrid, and Critical Systems (EHCS).

Proposals may be submitted in one of the following three categories:

Small--projects with total budgets up to \$450K and durations of up to 3 years (with maximum annual budgets of \$150K).

Team--projects with total budgets up to \$2.0M, and durations of up to 4 years (with maximum annual budgets of \$500K).

Other--including planning grants, workshops, Small Grants for Exploratory Research (SGER), and other community building activities. Planning grants and SGER proposals will be funded at levels up to \$100K/year for up to two years. Workshops in new or emerging areas in computer and software systems research and education will be funded at levels up to \$50K for one year. *Prior to submission of any proposal in the "Other" category, PIs must get permission to submit their proposals from a CSR Program Officer.*

Deadline is April 23.

[http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08538/nsf08538.htm?govDel=USNSF\\_25](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08538/nsf08538.htm?govDel=USNSF_25)

## **Continuous Quality Improvement**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has joined in a national effort to advance the science of continuous quality improvement (CQI) research, and is currently seeking proposals that:

develop methods, tools and standards for the design, conduct, and reporting of CQI research and evaluations, including standardized typologies, definitions and measures of key concepts and consensus statements;

demonstrate how the paradigms, methods and approaches from other disciplines can advance the science of CQI research;

develop and test new theoretical models, conceptual frameworks, and logic models to explain CQI initiatives;

demonstrate how rapid-cycle "run-chart" or "PDSA-cycle" data can be used to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of CQI interventions implemented to address key quality challenges; and/or

develop methods to systematically capture implementation context information.

Proposals that address other issues that will advance the science of CQI research as it applies to health and health care will also be accepted.

[http://www.rwjf.org/files/applications/cfp/overview\\_CQI2008.pdf](http://www.rwjf.org/files/applications/cfp/overview_CQI2008.pdf)

### **Key Dates:**

**February 6, 2008** (3 p.m. ET)—An **informational applicant conference call** will be held to provide interested applicants an overview of this solicitation and offer an opportunity to ask questions.

**March 14, 2008** (3 p.m. ET)—Deadline for receipt of brief proposals.