Cluster Mapping Research Opportunity

Economic Development Administration

Clusters, and specifically regional innovation clusters, represent an important concept for development practitioners aiming to promote the prosperity of their region. Unlike traditional clusters, regional innovation clusters represent not only the economic efficiencies that exist from the co-location of similar industries and suppliers, but also consist of the active networks of synergistic organizations that engage with various businesses within a particular industry sector, the regional assets that exist within the geographic region, and the nodes that are critical for supporting the innovation work of the industry sector, such as R&D centers, venture capitalists, universities, national labs, and networks of entrepreneurs.

While the body of literature defining regional innovation clusters and discussing their impact on communities is prolific among academics, policy analysts, and national development organizations, this information has not been adequately translated and disseminated into an accessible and persuasive format to the people charged with promoting local economic prosperity. Recognizing this discontinuity, EDA solicits applications for an economic development research project aimed at developing a replicable method for identifying and mapping regional innovation clusters, providing resources on best practices, and providing recommendations on metrics for the evaluation of regional innovation clusters.

Clusters, and specifically regional innovation clusters (RICs), hold much promise for assisting local economic development specialists in developing comprehensive economic development strategies that can create jobs, spur business creation, and promote long-term economic prosperity. Unfortunately, while RICs have been widely discussed among policy circles, information on how to identify or support RICs has not been made widely available to front-line practitioners. To rectify this, EDA solicits applications from qualified researchers to accomplish the following:

1. Solicit input from practitioners and policymakers
2. Develop a method for identifying regional innovation clusters
3. Develop a national map of regional innovation clusters
4. Create an interactive mapping tool
5. Feature case studies of effective regional innovation clusters
6. Develop a toolkit for regions
7. Identify metrics for success of evaluating regional innovation clusters
8. Identify the sustainability of the project

Deadline is June 21.

http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&oppId=54670

Dissertation Award

Upjohn Institute for Employment Research

The W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research invites submissions for its annual prize for the best Ph.D. dissertation on employment-related issues. A first prize of $2,000 is being offered. Up to two honorable mention awards of $750 may also be given.

The Institute supports and conducts policy-relevant research on employment, unemployment, and social insurance programs. The dissertation award further pursues this mission. The dissertation may come from any academic discipline, but it must have a substantial policy thrust.

Dissertations will be evaluated by a panel of economists using the following criteria: policy.
relevance, technical quality of the research, and presentation.

Any person whose dissertation was accepted during the 24-month period of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010 is eligible for the 2010 prize.

The deadline to apply for the 2009 award is July 2, 2010.

http://www.upjohninst.org/dissert.html

**Expeditions in Computing**  
**National Science Foundation**

The *Expeditions* program has three goals:

To catalyze far-reaching research explorations motivated by deep scientific questions or hard problems in the computing and information fields, and/or by compelling applications that promise significant societal benefits;

To inspire current and future generations of Americans, especially those from under-represented groups, to pursue rewarding careers in computer and information science and engineering; and

To stimulate significant research and education outcomes that, through effective knowledge transfer mechanisms, promise scientific, economic and/or other societal benefits.

Projects supported by the *Expeditions* program comprise the following characteristics:

Foster research climates that nurture creativity and informed risk-taking, and value complementary research and education contributions such that the whole *Expedition* is greater than the sum of its parts;

Draw upon well-integrated, diverse teams of investigators from one or more disciplines within computer and information science and engineering, as well as investigators from other fields where necessary;

Stimulate effective knowledge transfer; and

Demonstrate experimental systems or support shared experimental facilities (including instruments, platforms and/or testbeds), where necessary, to enable discovery and learning.

Estimated program budget is $30,000,000 for each competition, subject to the availability of funds. Three to four new awards will be made in each competition.

*Expeditions* projects with annual budgets up to $2,000,000 for durations of five years will be supported.

Preliminary proposals are due by September 10.


**CEEMAN Case Writing Competition**

CEEMAN offers an annual case writing competition and invites authors to participate. CEEMAN’s objective is to promote the development of high-quality case material relevant for the realities of transitional and emerging economies and at the same time promoting the development of case-writing capabilities in those countries.

Submitted cases should be:

- Not yet registered at any case clearing houses
- Based on primary research and on a real business situation in a real company
- Usable for executive programs and MBA-level students
- Released for publication by the management of the company or individuals included in the case
- Written in English and easy to follow
- Maximum 12 pages long (12-point Times New Roman font, single-space narrative) plus exhibits, appendices, and bibliography of resources
- Accompanied by a case teaching note and case synopsis

Deadline is July 18.