If you would like more information about an announcement, please contact Deborah Hamilton (8-2952).

research.cba.ua.edu has links to searchable databases, the UA internal coordination sheet, and the C&BA supplemental compensation form.

All proposals must be coordinated through the College before submission. Proposals submitted jointly with another UA college as the lead still require C&BA approval.

**Economics**

The National Science Foundation’s Economics Program supports research designed to improve the understanding of the processes and institutions of the U.S. economy and of the world system of which it is a part. The Program strengthens both empirical and theoretical economic analysis as well as the methods for rigorous research on economic behavior.

Areas of interest are computational economics; transformation of command economies; human resource-related issues (poverty, labor productivity, the family, gender and racial discrimination, etc.); and global environmental change.

The Economic Program also funds conferences and interdisciplinary research that strengthens links among economics and other social and behavioral sciences as well as mathematics and statistics. The Program supports research in almost every subfield of economics, including econometrics, economic history, finance, industrial organization, international economics, labor economics, public finance, macroeconomics, and mathematical economics. Deadline is January 15, 2004.

**Financial Education Grants**

The National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) is a Denver-based, nonprofit foundation dedicated to the mission of helping Americans acquire the information and gain the skills necessary to take control of their financial lives. NEFE accomplishes its mission by partnering with other concerned organizations and individuals to provide financial education to young people; underserved segments of society whose financial concerns are not being addressed by others, or who have special needs; and the general public.

There are three types of grants available from NEFE:

**Directed Grants:** These grants are created periodically to fund projects initiated by NEFE in response to specific public financial education needs identified by the foundation.

**Grant Requests for Proposals (RFPs):** The RFPs are a type of directed grant in that NEFE conceptualizes a financial education project, identifies desired deliverables, and seeks proposals from any qualified applicant interested in submitting a Letter of Inquiry. Examples of deliverables include educational materials and curricula; informational brochures, videos, and Web-based programs; research reports that merit publication in professional or consumer media; and research presentations appropriate for academic, professional, or consumer conferences. Since the list of Grant RFP notices changes periodically, all potential grant applicants should review the list prior to submitting a Letter of Inquiry. While some latitude is appropriate in responding to an RFP notice, applications are expected to reflect the parameters indicated in the request. Current list of grant RFP’s is available at: http://www.nefe.org/pages/grantrfps.html.

**Unsolicited Grants:** These grants typically are awarded in response to funding requests from other nonprofit groups and organizations for self-initiated projects that support one or more of the foundation’s public education initiatives. Prior to submitting an unsolicited request, applicants should review the list of RFPs on NEFE’s Web site to avoid duplication or substantial overlap. All such requests are evaluated—on their own merits, as well as against competing requests—within the framework of NEFE’s application and decision-making process.


The average grant is in the range of $50,000, and the median grant in the range of $65,000.
**Manufacturing Enterprise Systems**

NSF’s Manufacturing Enterprise Systems (MES) program addresses focused research on design, planning and control of operations in manufacturing enterprises, from shop floors to the associated procurement and distribution supply chains. Contributions should extend the range of analytical and computational techniques addressed to these extended enterprise operations, and/or advance novel models offering policy insight or the prospect of implementable solutions.

Among the categories of research supported are the following:

1. tools for planning and scheduling of manufacturing and distribution operations, including those in extended, spatially distributed enterprises with diverse management, and those offering make-to-order products in environments such as e-commerce;

2. methods for evaluation, comparison, and optimization of designs for manufacturing systems and facilities, especially in the presence of massive uncertainty and risk about the target operating environment;

3. systems for design, planning and control of procurement and distribution supply chains, including those in extended enterprises with diverse management. Among topics investigated are size and positioning of inventories, tools for intermediation such as e-markets and auctions, and scalable forms of productive collaboration and contracting among diverse elements of supply networks;

4. tools for the monitoring and control of manufacturing systems and quality. Topics include information systems and databases for manufacturing operations control, statistics-based procedures for assessing quality and system health, and methods of mining operational sensor data for implications about process and quality decisions; and

5. methods for personnel planning in manufacturing and distribution operations control, including novel systems for staff assignment and cross-training.

MES research is typically performed with the guidance or collaboration of appropriate industrial partners to validate the impact of the results on the intended application. MES research often involves application of known problem-solving techniques to issues in a particular problem domain. However, it is not enough to simply demonstrate that an established method can be applied. Successful proposals should involve novel adaptations of techniques and creative modeling to make real advances in the application setting. Much of the research in MES is computational and/or exploits capabilities of the Internet, but development of commercial software or networks is not supported by the program.

Deadlines are February 1 and October 1, 2004.

**Socioeconomic Forces and Emissions of Greenhouse Gases**

Proposals are sought for original research papers on the topics of the relationships between socioeconomic forces and emissions of greenhouse gases and other radiatively important emissions, such as sulfur dioxide. Eight awards are anticipated at $25,000 per paper.

Research papers should be of 5,000 to 10,000 words and must encompass original research or applications of theory. Papers that propose new theoretical frameworks that seek to refine or elaborate on the “Environmental Kuznets Curve” theory and papers that seek empirical existence of such theories are preferable. Specific topics may include:

- the role and interplay of various socioeconomic forces such GDP growth, price of energy, structure of the economy, governance structure, fuel resource availability, technological change and diffusion
- the immediacy of the gas or pollutant’s effect on health and environment
- price shocks or other social or economic watersheds
- energy use
- agriculture and land use
- transportation
- the role of environmental policies such as “integrated environmental strategies” in shaping alternative development pathways.

Deadline is January 15, 2004.