From: Brittany Doleac
To: FACULTY LIST
Date: 9/26/2003 3:14:29 PM
Subject: Announcements for USC Faculty and Staff

Department of Homeland Security Seeking Reviewers to Evaluate Anti-Terrorism Technologies

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Operational Evaluation Division (OED) at the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA). We have been tasked by the Department of Homeland Security to help them in their goal to bring anti-terrorist technologies to market as quickly as possible in accordance with the SAFETY Act (see attachment). Wendy Howe (Wendy.Howe@dhs.gov) at DHS is the POC for the Safety Act. All appropriate applications for such technologies will be reviewed for technical merit by one of six technical panels that are built around specific threats:

* Nuclear/Radiation
* Chemical
* Biological
* Explosives
* Cyber
* Human (e.g., hijackers)

and their associated functional areas:

* Deterring
* Detecting
* Countering
* Mitigating impact
* Forensics

To this end, DHS is in the process of staffing the technical panels and they are asking for your help in identifying potential panel chairs and panel members. Panel chairs and members are needed from academia, industry and the National/Federal Laboratories. Panel chairs will have the following responsibilities:

* Assign reviewers (panel members)
* Assign screeners (pre-application and full)
* "Verify and validate" training (for screening and for reviewing)
* Actual training done by Management Group
* Propose contours of evaluation (consistent scope for all applications)
* Identify applications that might require Study Teams
* Ensure consistency between screening and reviewing
* Ensure consistency in entire process (over long haul)
* Calibration of reviewers and reviews
* Review Economic Panel summary
* Build consensus between technical summary and economic summary
* First build "sub-consensus" between all economic sub-panels
* Create package for DHS decision maker
* Present package to Assistant Secretary
* Participate in debriefing of rejected applicants (if applicable)

The panel chairs are expected to devote a six-month to one-year (extendable) period of time during which their duties as panel chair are their primary responsibility. During this period, significant time will be spent in the DC area (Alexandria, Va) to fulfill these duties. We are especially eager to locate quality candidates for these chair positions. For the panels themselves, having personnel with an appropriate technical background as well as operational experience is critical. The process of application review is web-based and designed for timeliness (reviewing one application should take ~½ day once in steady-state, maybe
longer at first). We expect that the pool of reviewers will be deep enough that each reviewer can estimate spending 3 days per month reviewing applications. Please reply to this email with the names and background of any colleagues (including yourselves) or organizations (including yours) that you think would be helpful as we form the technical panels and identify panel chairs. Your help is greatly appreciated.

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For USC Faculty & Staff Interested in Nutrition Research:

The South Carolina Nutrition Research Consortium is pleased to invite you to attend the first annual SC Nutrition Research Summit on Friday, October 17, 2003 at Saluda Shoals Park in Columbia, SC. The statewide conference -- taking place from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. -- is designed to stimulate collaborative nutritional research and to provide a forum for learning of research opportunities from government and private sources. Along with breakout funding workshops related to childhood obesity, dietary supplementation, and nutrition support, there will also be a poster session at which you and your students may present recently conducted nutrition-related (broadly defined) research, whether or not it has been previously presented. We will also have an exciting line up of presentations by national nutrition research experts, including: Paul Coates, Ph.D., Director, Office of Dietary Supplements, National Institutes of Health; John Peters, Ph.D., Associate Director, Food & Beverage Technology Nutrition Science Institute, The Procter & Gamble Company; and Robin Hamre, M.S., R.D., Obesity Prevention Program Team Leader, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cost for the event is only $30 (lunch included); students attend free.

The South Carolina Nutrition Research Consortium (SCNRC) is a collaboration of Clemson University, The Medical University of South Carolina, The University of South Carolina, and The South Carolina Research Authority. The Consortium was chartered to leverage the resources of South Carolina's three research universities, as well as other state colleges and universities, industry, and government, for the purposes of fostering innovative research on nutrition and its effects on human health and launching outreach programs that will promote good nutrition and disease prevention among all South Carolinians.

For more details on both the Nutrition Research Summit and the SCNRC, please visit our website at: http://www.scnrc.org. A mailer and poster about the Summit are attached as well in pdf files. Please feel free to post these and to pass on to other interested parties at your organization/university as well as others across the state. If you need additional copies, please let us know.

We would like to personally encourage you to attend this meeting and to participate in the poster session. This is a great way to meet your colleagues across the state who may be working in nutrition research projects of interest to you. We hope to see many of you there.

For additional information, please contact:

Rob Davis  
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VISIT OUR SCNRC WEB SITE AT:  http://www.scnrc.org

USC/Gateway Child Development and Research Center Opportunities

The new USC/Gateway CDRC will be a state-of-the-art facility designed by nationally recognized leaders in the field of early child care and education. This public/private partnership is intended to be a demonstration site and a resource for the entire educational community.

The Center has been developed and will be operated by a collaborative that includes:

• USC  
• Gateway Academy Child Development Centers  
• SC Department of Health and Human Services  
• SC Educational Television  
• G.L.E.A.M.S.  
• Head Start  
• SC Department of Education

The first floor of the CDRC will serve 200 children from 6 months to 12 years of age. The Center will welcome children with special needs and will reflect South Carolina’s economic and ethnic diversity. The second floor of the CDRC will be a flexible, multi-purpose research and teaching center. One of its special features will be a state-of-the-art studio classroom with interactive talk-back video programming capabilities. With the assistance of ETV, the center will have the capacity to deliver low cost programming via satellite to all of South Carolina’s 86 school districts and childcare centers in even the most remote corners of the state.

There are many ways additional support will make it possible to realize the facility’s full potential:
• Enhance its technological capacity with additional cameras, teleconference rooms, editing facilities, etc.
• Furnish the parenting center. It is designed to include a home-like sitting area, conference room, and information center. This resource will be particularly important to families whose children have special needs.
• Provide interview, treatment, and observation rooms outfitted with audio and video recording capacity that meets the needs of speech and hearing therapists, child psychologists, child and family counselors, social workers, public health personnel, nurses, and others who work with normally developing children, children who have special needs, and their families
• Provide activity and research space for music and movement education, physical education, etc.
• Provide activity and research space for art educators, including access to water and easy to clean surfaces
• Provide offices outfitted with appropriate furniture and equipment for faculty who are conducting research
and their research assistants
• Equip a technology assisted classroom for 35-40 students for instructors based in a wide range of colleges and departments
• Create a resource library for researchers that includes a collection of commonly used assessment and evaluation instruments, toys and materials commonly used in interview and treatment protocols, etc.
• Develop a hospitality area so that refreshments can be provided efficiently when the center is used for all day workshops and training events
• Support full time staffing to schedule and manage the research and teaching functions of the center

Programs using the center would also benefit from additional support:
• Establish and pilot programs in childcare management
• Family support and parent education
• Family literacy
• Homeless education
• Programs in emergent language and literacy targeting parents and teachers of very young children
• Professional development for in-service teachers focusing particularly on curriculum and methods
• Professional development for pre-service and in-service teachers focusing on science, mathematics, and/or the arts
• Professional development for teachers of children who have special needs
• Professional development based on the Program for Infant and Toddler Caregivers - both train-the-trainer programs and the principles of early childcare and education
• Mentoring and support programs pursuing accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
• Professional development enhancing participants’ expertise applying the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) and Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS)
• Professional development enhancing participants’ expertise applying the South Carolina Readiness Assessment (SCRA)
• Professional development targeting principals and other administrators supervising teachers who work with young children
• Support teaching, professional development, and research efforts of faculty from the Library and Information Science services and their students

If you have an interest in early childhood research we welcome and encourage you to contact us. Please phone Nancy Freeman at nfreeman@gwm.sc.edu or 777-2470 if you are interested in early childhood research or are looking for opportunities for your students to get involved with young children.

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