

## **National Science Foundation S-STEM Scholarship Application** *Ensuring Success for First Generation and Rural College STEM Students*

UNM Valencia has been awarded a National Science Foundation S-STEM grant with a goal of increasing the number of academically talented and underrepresented students pursuing and completing degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Scholarships are available to students who might not be able to attend college due to financial need and will provide the means for students to stay in their programs, attend college full-time, and complete their degrees more quickly.

Increased academic and social support will improve student retention, completion and transfer, and increase the number of workforce-ready employees in high wage jobs in high demand science and technology industries throughout central New Mexico. Approximately 30 scholarships per year will be available ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000 depending on demonstrated financial need.

### **To be eligible, students must:**

- Have a declared major in a STEM certificate or associate's degree in Computer Aided Drafting, Information Technology, Construction Technology, or Digital Media Arts or an associate's degree in General Science or Pre-Engineering. Medical or clinical fields are ineligible.
- Demonstrate academic potential or ability based on transcripts and teacher or faculty recommendations.
- Demonstrate financial need as defined by the U.S. Department of Education.
- Be in their first semester at UNM Valencia taking 12 credit hours or more OR be returning to UNM Valencia registered for 12 credits or more.

### **Scholarship Benefits:**

- Students will be recognized for excellence in academic coursework.
- Students will receive the support of a senior faculty mentor who will guide them through their educational career.
- Students will receive support and guidance through UNIV 175, a one credit hour Experiential Learning Seminar to reinforce classroom learning.
- Students will have a STEM advisor to guide them through their program and provide enhanced transfer assistance.
- Students will have full access to all support services on campus, including Career Counseling, Academic Advisement, Transfer Advisement, Financial Aid Counseling, and Tutoring
- Students may have internship opportunities with area companies related to their chosen major.

### **Qualifications:**

- Must remain a full-time student by completing 12 or more credit hours each fall and spring semester.
- Must be a U.S. citizen, a national of the U.S., or an alien lawfully admitted to the U.S. for permanent residence.
- Must have a declared major leading to a certificate or associate's degree in Computer Aided Drafting, Information Technology, Construction Technology, or Digital Media Arts or an associate's degree in General Science or Pre-Engineering. *Medical or health care fields are not eligible.*

- Must demonstrate financial need as defined by the U.S. Department of Education for need-based federal financial assistance. Students must have a Free Application for Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) on file for the 2011-2012 academic year.
- Must enroll in *UNIV 175: Experiential Learning Seminar* (1 credit hour) to reinforce classroom learning.
- Must maintain a 2.67 GPA in STEM classes and meet satisfactory academic progress as defined by the U.S. Department of Education. The first scholarship semester will be probationary; supplemental instruction (SI) attendance for STEM courses will be required.
- Must plan to graduate with a certificate or associate's degree in Computer Aided Drafting (AASCAD), Construction Technology (AASCT), Digital Media Arts (AASDMA), or Information Technology (AASIT), or graduate with an associate's degree in Pre-Engineering (ASPENG) or General Science (ASGS).
- Transfer assistance is available for those transferring into a bachelor degree program in STEM majors:
  - biological sciences;
  - physical sciences, including physics, chemistry, astronomy, and environmental science;
  - mathematical sciences;
  - computer and information sciences;
  - geosciences;
  - engineering;
  - technology areas associated with the preceding fields (i.e., engineering technology, biotechnology)

### **Application Requirements:**

- Submit an NSF S-STEM application
- Submit a 500 word essay describing your career aspirations, academic ability and explain how this scholarship will support you in attaining your goals
- Submit a high school transcript or a college transcript (returning students)
- Recommended for fall 2011 applications: submit a recommendation form from two high school STEM teachers; or, for returning college students, submit one recommendation form from STEM faculty that addresses your academic potential and probability for success.

Students seeking a second year of the scholarship through this program will be required to show satisfactory academic progress toward a certificate or an associate degree in the original STEM declared major. Students must maintain a 2.67 GPA in their STEM classes, maintain full-time status, and pass all course work necessary to complete their degree.

### **Application Deadline:**

**FALL – August 15, 2011**

If you have any further questions, please contact:

Cindy Shue, Program Specialist	(505) 925-8512	<a href="mailto:cshue@unm.edu">cshue@unm.edu</a>
Bill Bloom, Financial Aid Manager	(505) 925-8590	<a href="mailto:wbloom@unm.edu">wbloom@unm.edu</a>
Miriam Chavez, Ph.D, Co-Chair, Math & Science Division	(505) 925-8613	<a href="mailto:mjchavez@unm.edu">mjchavez@unm.edu</a>

Completed applications can be delivered to the Financial Aid Office, UNM Valencia Campus or mailed to:

William Bloom, Manager  
Office of Financial Aid  
UNM Valencia Campus  
280 La Entrada  
Los Lunas, NM 87031