

[NIGMS' Bridges to Baccalaureate Program](#)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages Research Education Grant (R25) applications that propose research education programs intended to enhance the pool of community college students from diverse backgrounds nationally underrepresented in biomedical and behavioral sciences who go on to research careers in the biomedical and behavioral sciences, and will be available to participate in NIH-funded research. Key strategies are to increase transfer and increase retention to BA/BS graduation in biomedical and behavioral sciences. This initiative promotes **partnerships/consortia between community colleges** or other two-year post-secondary educational institutions granting the associate degree **with colleges or universities** that offer the baccalaureate degree.

The proposed Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program must select and employ well-integrated strategies, rooted in education research, that provide students what they need to progress to the next stage of the science education pathway. For example, analysis of successful science programs by Jolly, Campbell, and Perlman entitled "Engagement, Capacity and Continuity: A Trilogy for Student Success" ([GE Foundation, September 2004](#)) concluded that three factors must be present for students to succeed in the sciences and be able to continue in the education pipeline. These factors are: 1) student engagement in the sciences, i.e., awareness, interest and motivation; 2) knowledge and skills needed to advance to increasingly more rigorous content in the sciences and quantitative disciplines; and 3) presence of a well-designed system where the skills, knowledge and information that students need to move to more advanced levels are provided at each earlier, less advanced level. These three factors are interdependent and each is necessary.

The Bridges to Baccalaureate Program recognizes the heterogeneity of institutional settings and institutional missions. Therefore, each application must conduct a self-assessment of each participating institution that includes baseline data on enrollment, transfer, research training, and subsequent graduation of its UR students in biomedical and behavioral sciences. Specific aims must be based on this self-assessment and must be consonant with the Bridges to Baccalaureate goals and objective. The four-year partner institution should demonstrate that it has the resources needed to support Bridges students upon and after transfer, to facilitate the student's successful baccalaureate degree completion.

A new requirement for this FOA is a multiple PD/PI application (See Sections III.1 and IV.2). The rationale for this change is to increase the likelihood of establishing true, equitable partnerships among institutions.

View the full funding announcement [HERE](#).

This is a limited submission grant opportunity. **Each institution may submit one proposal.** To be considered, **please submit a one page Letter of Intent and the PI's abbreviated CV to rifs@wayne.edu by 5PM on May 18, 2015.** The sponsor's proposal deadline is: September 15, 2015.