

**George, Ronald**

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**From:** Lucy Deckard <LDeckard@academicresearchgrants.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 5:26 PM  
**To:** Luis Cifuentes; Mike Cronan; George, Ronald  
**Subject:** RCN-SEES Overview

## **NSF Research Coordination Networks – Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability (RCN-SEES) Program**

Due May 24, 2011

**Program Motivation:** The RCN-SEES track recognizes the growing need and urgency **for research collaborations that productively cross the boundaries of the natural sciences, engineering, mathematics and the computational sciences, and the social, behavioral and economic sciences** to develop new understanding, theory, models and technology to sustain and improve the quality of life for humankind within a healthy Earth system. The challenge of sustainability is of global concern and the RCN-SEES track is also envisioned as **a means to strengthen connections and collaborations of US scientists with the broader international science and engineering community.**

**Funding Level:** \$750K over 4 - 5 years.

**Focus:** An RCN-SEES proposal should have a theme relevant to sustainability science, engineering, and education as the focus of its activities, and is expected to **involve a highly interdisciplinary set of participants and be long term (4 – 5 years).**

**Activities Funded:** Funds may be requested to **promote collaborative activities**, such as **short visits among member laboratories, exchange visits of students, sharing of unique facilities**, establishment of a **public web site, network retreats, partial support of workshops** uniquely tied to the **network activities**, etc. Any well-justified activity that fulfills the goals of the Program will be considered. **Innovative ideas for implementing novel networking strategies to promote research collaborations and enable new research directions or advancement of a field are especially encouraged.** Funds from this program **may not support independent, individual research projects of the participants; nor are they to be used as a mechanism for a mini-grant awarding program.**

**Participants:** The size of a network is expected to vary depending on the theme and the needs of the proposed activity. The network may **be regional, national, or international.** It is expected that a proposed network will involve investigators at **diverse organizations.** **The inclusion of new researchers, post-docs, graduate students, and undergraduates is encouraged.** Specific efforts to **increase participation of underrepresented groups** must be included. In the proposal, an initial network of likely participants should be identified. However, there should be clearly developed mechanisms to maintain openness, ensure access, and actively promote participation by interested parties outside of the initial participants in the proposed network. NSF **encourages international collaboration**, and we anticipate that many RCN projects will include **participants, including steering committee members, from outside the US.** **International collaborations should clearly strengthen the proposed project activities.**

To read the full solicitation, go to <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11531/nsf11531.htm> .

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