



NEWS
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SEA Receives Funding to Continue its Efforts of Involving Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) in the NEON Initiative

Through funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Science and Engineering Alliance, Inc. (SEA) has been awarded a \$270,000 subcontract by the NEON, Inc. to continue its efforts aimed at broadening participation in the NEON initiative to include faculty and students from historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and other minority serving institutions (MSIs).

Washington, DC October 1, 2008 – A subcontract from NEON, Inc. will support a newly created position at SEA entitled “SEA-NEON Program Manager (SNPM).” The subcontract funds will cover the hiring of a senior-level staff to join SEA and provide leadership on facilitating the involvement of underrepresented groups in NEON ecological research. Additionally, the SNPM will work closely with the NEON, Inc. technical staff in making sure HBCU and other MSI faculty and students are engaged in NEON activities at all levels.

“We are grateful to our partners at the NSF and NEON, Inc. for supporting our efforts to create and now fund the much-needed SNPM position,” noted Dr. Robert Shepard, SEA Executive Director and Principal Investigator (PI) for the subcontract. Dr. George Wright, President of Prairie View A&M University and SEA Board Chair said, “The NSF, NEON, Inc. as well as many of the other Federal agencies have began reaching out to SEA based on the organization’s solid management structure and its central focus on broadening participation in Federally-funded research initiatives like NEON. On behalf of all of the SEA partners, we express our gratitude to the NSF and NEON, Inc. for its support of the SNPM position at SEA.”

NEON, Inc. is an independent 501(c)(3) corporation created to manage large-scale ecological observing systems and experiments on behalf of the scientific community. NEON is a large facility project managed by NEON, Inc. and funded by the NSF. The goal of NEON is to contribute to global understanding and decisions in a changing environment using scientific information about continental-scale ecology obtained through integrated observations and experiments.

SEA is a Washington, D.C. based non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1990 “to address the challenge of establishing an ethnically diverse technical workforce prepared to compete in today’s global marketplace.” Its unique program is dedicated to ensuring that historically underrepresented talent plays a vital role in the nation’s scientific and engineering future. It is believed that by working together, SEA will accelerate the production of globally competitive American scientists and engineers

among people of color. Public and private sector organizations seeking to enhance their intellectual talent pool can look to SEA member institutions to provide quality scientists and first-rate scientific research.

SEA members include: Alabama A&M University (Huntsville, AL); Jackson State University (Jackson, MS); Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, TX) and Southern University and A&M College (Baton Rouge, LA), and two national laboratories -- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in Livermore, CA and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, MD.

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