

programs are stipends, not salary. The SURF Programs will not authorize funds for indirect costs or fringe benefits.

For the EEEL SURF Program, the NIST EEEL anticipates receiving funding as a NSF REU Program at the level of \$73,000 per year. It is anticipated that the funding for the EEEL SURF Program will provide for the costs of stipends, travel and lodging, and the conference attendance for approximately eleven students.

For the MEL SURF Program, the NIST MEL anticipates receiving funding as a NSF REU Program at the level of \$52,000 per year. For the CSTL SURF Program, the NIST CSTL will pursue funding as a NSF REU Program at the level of \$40,000 per year and may contribute additional NIST CSTL funds to support additional students. For the BFRL SURF Program, the NIST BFRL anticipates receiving funding as a NSF REU Program at the level of \$50,000 per year. For the ITL SURF Program, the NIST ITL anticipates receiving funding as a NSF REU Program at the level of \$50,000 per year. It is anticipated that the funding for the MEL, CSTL, BFRL and ITL SURF Programs will provide for the costs of stipends, travel and lodging, and the conference attendance of eight students for each program.

For the PL SURF Program, the NIST PL will commit approximately \$50,000 to support these cooperative agreements. The NIST PL's REU Program is anticipating renewal of funding by the NSF at the level of \$85,000 per year. The anticipated direct costs for stipends, travel, lodging, and conference attendance for 22 students is about \$135,000.

For the MSEL SURF Program, the NIST MSEL anticipates receiving funding as a NSF REU Program at the level of \$70,000 per year. It is anticipated that this funding will provide for the costs of stipends, travel and lodging, and the conference attendance of 10 students.

The actual number of awards made under this announcement will depend on the actual costs. For all SURF Programs described in this notice, it is expected that individual awards to institutions will range from approximately \$3,000 to \$70,000. NIST is in the process of determining whether NIST will contract directly with apartment complexes for student housing, or whether funding for student housing will be included in cooperative agreements awarded as a result of this notice. Selected applicants will be informed prior to award whether housing will be provided via the cooperative agreement or provided separately by NIST.

*Proposal Review Process:* All SURF Program proposals are submitted to the Administrative Coordinator. Each proposal is examined for completeness and responsiveness. Substantially incomplete or non-responsive proposals will not be considered for funding, and the applicant will be notified. The Program will retain one copy of each non-responsive application for three years for record keeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed. Proposals should include the following:

(A) Student Information:

- (1) Student application information cover sheet;
- (2) Academic transcript for each student nominated for participation (students must have a recommended G.P.A. of 3.0 or better, out of a possible 4.0);
- (3) A personal statement from each student and statement of commitment to participate in the 2003 SURF program, including a description of the student's prioritized research interests;
- (4) A resume for each student;
- (5) Two letters of recommendation for each student;
- (6) Verification of U.S. citizenship or permanent legal resident status for each student; and
- (7) Verification of health coverage for each student.

(B) Information About the Applicant Institution:

- (1) Description of the institution's education and research programs; and
- (2) A summary list of the student(s) being nominated.

Institution proposals will be separated into student/institution packets. Each student/institution packet will be comprised of the required application forms, including a complete copy of the student information and a complete copy of the institution information. The student/institution packets will be directed to the SURF Program designated by the student as his/her first choice. Each SURF Program will have three independent, objective NIST employees who are knowledgeable in the scientific areas that the program addresses conduct a technical review of each student/institution packet based on the Evaluation Criteria for the SURF Programs described in this notice. Each technical reviewer will recommend that each student/institution packet be placed into one of three categories: Priority funding; fund if possible; and do not fund. Each student/institution packet will then be placed into one of the three categories by the Program's Director, who will take into consideration the reviewers' recommendations, the relevance of the student's course of study to the program

objectives of the NIST laboratory in which that SURF Program resides as described in the Program Description and Objectives section of this notice, the relevance of the student's statement of commitment to the goals of the SURF Program, and the availability of funding.

Student/institution packets placed in the priority funding category will be selected for funding in that SURF Program. Student/institution packets placed in the do not fund category will not be considered for funding.

Student/institution packets placed in the Fund if Possible Category will be considered for funding by the SURF Program designated by the student as his/her second choice. In making selections for funding, the Director of the student's second choice SURF Program will take into consideration the recommendations of the reviewers who conducted the technical reviews for the student's first choice SURF Program, the program objectives of the NIST laboratory in which the student's second choice SURF Program resides as described in the Program Description and Objectives section of this notice, the relevance of the student's statement of commitment to the goals of the SURF Program, and the availability of funding.

Students not selected for funding by their first or second choice SURF Program, and students who did not designate a second choice, will then be considered for funding from all SURF Programs that still have slots available. In making selections for funding, the SURF Program Directors will take into consideration the recommendations of the reviewers who conducted the technical reviews for the student's first choice SURF Program, the program objectives of the NIST laboratory in which their SURF Program resides as described in the Program Description and Objectives section of this notice, the relevance to the goals of the SURF Program, and the availability of funding.

Student/institution packets placed in the fund if possible category, but not selected through the process described above, will not be funded.

The final approval of selected applications and award of cooperative agreements will be made by the NIST Grants Officer based on compliance with application requirements as published in this notice, compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements, compliance with Federal policies that best further the objectives of the Department of Commerce, and whether the recommended applicants appear to be responsible. Applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets and provide supplemental information required by