

International Committee

Call for Proposal

Linking Science Educators Program (LSEP)

Descriptions

The National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST) is a worldwide organization committed to help all learners to achieve scientific literacy as an ultimate goal and to cooperate with other educational and scientific societies to influence science education policies. The Linking Science Educators (LSEP) program, initiated by International Committee of NARST, is a new initiative designed to contribute to improvement of science educators in countries interested in science education reform. In particular, the program intends to support representatives from countries that are either economically disadvantaged (e.g., UNDP Human Development Index 0.80 or below), or educational disadvantaged countries (e.g., low financial support towards science education with respect to their gross national product for education), but not limited to, who will implement new ideas on science educational reform in their countries. However, the program is also open to representative with science educational reform ideas but cannot attain enough financial support otherwise.

The LSEP program would support the economy round-trip airfare and local transportation for resource persons (who must be NARST members) while the host country would provide the cost for the resource person's stay and for expenses for the proposed activity (Conference/workshop/seminar, or other activity). Countries that are involved in science education reform are encouraged to submit a proposal for the LSEP program via the chairpersons of their science education association or other recognized bodies in the country to the NARST International Coordinator/International Committee Chair. LSEP program will act as a catalyst so NARST members may contribute their expertise and experiences in theory and in practice to people in different countries.

To qualify for a LSEP, the chairperson of a national science education association or other recognized body must submit an application to the NARST International Coordinator/International Committee Chair using the appended form.

Purpose

The *Linking Science Education Program (LSEP)* has been established for the following purposes:

1. Bring science educators to countries, which are interested in improving science education, in particular, to economically disadvantaged or underrepresented countries for implementing new ideas in science education reform.
2. Encourage NARST members to contribute their expertise and experiences in theory and practice to different regions and countries.
3. Demonstrate the commitment of NARST to improving science education research in different cultures.
4. Share responsibilities for improving scientific literacy of global citizens in 21st century.
5. Promote active interaction among science education associations.

Who is eligible for this program?

1. Countries that are willing to implement science education reform will be strongly encouraged to submit the proposal for the LSEP program either via the chairpersons of their science education association or from other internally recognized bodies that are associated with the improvement of science education.
2. LSEP program will act as a catalyst to encourage NARST members to contribute their expertise and experiences in theory and practice to different regions and countries.

What does the LSEP program cover?

The LSEP program would support round-trip economy airfare, local transportations, for the resource expert(s) (who must be NARST members) and copies of teaching materials for participants while the host country would provide the cost for the resource person's stay and for the conference/workshop/seminar, or other activity. Translations of materials that will be used in the country activities, if needed, are the responsibility of the host country.

Budget anticipated

The maximum total amount of this proposal is \$1,700.

Submission deadlines: July 31, 2009

Starting and ending time: August 1, 2009-December 31, 2009

Who are the resource experts?

NARST members are eligible and encouraged to contribute their experiences and expertise to the LSEP program. A list of resource experts to match the country's needs for the LSEP could be recommended by International Committee under request.

Procedures and requirements of application

The following procedures are recommended to those who are interested in applying LSEP:

1. Download descriptions of LSEP from www.narst.org, the official website of NARST.
2. Contact the International Coordinator of NARST, Mei-Hung Chiu at mhchiu@ntnu.edu.tw.
3. Search for potential resource persons who will agree to come.
4. Interact with the NARST International Coordinator/International Committee Chair. for preparation of the proposal (Project submission form available: http://www.narst.org/LSEP/LSEP_applicationform.doc)
5. Submit the proposal to the NARST International Coordinator/International Committee Chair. via e-mail (Mei-Hung Chiu at mhchiu@ntnu.edu.tw), fax, or post signed document on institutional letterhead to:
National Association for Research in Science Teaching
12100 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 130, Reston, VA USA 20190-3221
Phone: 703-234-4138 - Fax: 703-435-4390
6. Receive review comments from the NARST International Coordinator/International Committee Chair and make revisions for re-submission, if necessary.
7. Wait for the results of the final reviews to be announced.
8. If proposal is accepted, implement the proposed project.

Additional Requirements

9. Write a one page description of the project and submit it to the NARST

International Coordinator/International Committee Chair for e-NARST. Support will be provided by the International Coordinator in writing the report if needed.

10. Write 5-10 page report (including photos of the event) after completing the project for the NARST and submit it to the NARST International Coordinator/International Committee Chair. Support will be provided by the International Coordinator in writing the report if needed. This report will be posted on the NARST website.

Selection Process

The International Committee will decide on those receiving the LSEP awards by consensus based on the need of applicants and strength of the proposal. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate a strong case for science education reform in their country that would benefit from international expertise. Recipients are chosen through a review process (Project review form available at http://www.narst.org/LSEP/LSEP_reviewform.doc), final nomination by NARST International Committee, and approval by the NARST Board of Directors.

The selection process will be as follows:

1. Distribute application documents for evaluation by the International Committee
2. Review and synthesize the recommendations of the Committee.
3. Make decisions based upon the consensus of the Committee
4. Report to the NARST Board of Directors and to the applicants regarding final awardees