

What are the benefits of ATE Funding? Why Should You Encourage Your STEM Faculty to pursue ATE and other NSF Funding?

Do your STEM technical programs and faculty need financial assistance to keep up with changing community, business, and industry needs? With its focus on two-year colleges and its aim to support the education of technicians that drive our nation's economy, the NSF Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program may be the answer. Since 1993 ATE has distributed 1.2 billion dollars to two-year colleges and their industry and educational partners. How can your college become part of the ATE program? Is there help for those interested in seeking ATE funding? To support faculty and colleges, NSF/ATE has funded six mentoring initiatives designed to help technical faculty develop projects and competitive proposals. For more information, contact Vera Zdravkovich at Zdravkovich@gmail.com or Elizabeth Teles at ejteles@yahoo.com.

The direct benefits of ATE funding to your college are:

✓ Workforce Development

- o Collaborations with local and regional business and industry in areas of greatest economic impact.
- o Efforts to increase the diversity of the current and future workforce.
- o Improvement of the current and future high technology workforce required by business and industry to remain competitive.

✓ Community Impact

- o Collaborations with 9-12 systems, which add to the community college standing in the community and improvement in enrollment.
- o Pathways to baccalaureate programs and beyond that demonstrate to students and parents that a two-year college degree is part of a career pathway.
- o National recognition of quality to the community, business and industry, politicians, and four-year college partners.

✓ Student Enrollment, Retention, and Completion

- o Efforts to recruit well qualified students to college programs.
- o Pathways to excellent, well-paying, and satisfying jobs.
- o Improvement in the classroom experience by assuring the curriculum emulates current and future business and industry practices

✓ Faculty Development

- o Professional development of technical faculty so they can gain new skills, work with industry to revise curricula, and emulate industry standards.
- o Engagement of two-year college faculty in building capacity and implementing innovation with external funding.
- o Opportunities to learn from industry experts and model technician education programs.



✓ Financial Benefits

- o Colleges can strategically develop a portfolio of ATE awards, build on prior good work, and incorporate ATE thinking into longer-term college planning.
- o Colleges can use indirect costs on ATE awards as they see fit.
- o Funds can be used to support faculty time, purchase equipment and instrumentation, and other critical needs for two-year college technician programs.
- o Proposals do not require cost sharing.

