



National Council for Geographic Education



E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller Geography Education Research Grant

NCGE's Research and External Relations Committee will award grants in 2008 for research on issues related to geography education.

Proposals may request up to \$4,000 for projects lasting up to 24 months.
Deadline for proposal submission is **March 14, 2008**

**Awards will be presented during the annual meeting at
Dearborn, Michigan ~ October 9-12, 2008**

Purpose. The Miller Research Grant program was established in 2004 through a generous endowment to NCGE by E. Willard and Ruby S. Miller. The grants are intended to advance the frontiers of geography education by supporting and promoting innovative research in theory, practice, and application. Projects should enhance the understanding of geographic learning and teaching through original investigations of learning processes, techniques, and content. Projects may focus on geographic learning and teaching at any age level from pre-school to adult. Investigations concentrating on the micro-scale examination of individual learners and teachers are welcome as are studies that pursue issues of geographic education at the classroom, school, district, college, state, national, or international levels. Empirical research is encouraged, as is research on learning among students, instruction and/or pre-service and in-service programs for geography educators.

Eligibility and Restrictions. Applicants must be NCGE members. Teachers, graduate students, faculty members and researchers are eligible to apply. Grantees are required to present the results of their projects: (1) at an annual meeting of NCGE; and (2) in a manuscript submitted for publication in the *Journal of Geography*. Funds may be requested for research supplies, support staff, student support, research travel and other expenses directly related to the research project. Funds are not awarded for salaries, fringe benefits of grantees, indirect costs, travel to conferences, tuition, page costs, or fees and registration. Principal investigations (PI) may request stipends for student assistance. Student assistance is allowed up to a maximum of \$2,000. Equipment such as computer hardware and software is generally non-fundable unless it is directly and clearly tied to the success of a research project. Grantees must demonstrate at the time of application or at the time research commences that they have obtained any needed clearances for research involving human subjects that are required either by their institutions or by legal requirements. A final narrative report of the research and a full financial accounting is due to NCGE 90 days after the termination date of the project. In exceptional circumstances, when the project warrants, requests may be made in excess of \$4,000.

Evaluation Criteria. Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with standards adapted from the National Science Foundation proposal review criteria as follows:

1) *What is the intellectual or scientific merit of the proposed activity?* How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding of geographic education? How well qualified is the applicant (individual or team) to conduct the project? To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?

2) *What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity on the theory or practice of geographic education?* How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to geographic education, geography, and society?

Please refer to back for application information

Application Format and Supporting Materials

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Applications should be 2,500 words or less, excluding the cover and budget sheets and other supporting materials as noted below. The complete application should include:

- 1) **Cover Sheet**, including current contact information.
- 2) **Proposal Summary**. The summary should be 300 words or less and be suitable for publication. The summary should not be an abstract of the proposal, but rather a self-contained description of the activity that would result if the proposal were funded. It should include a brief statement of objectives and methods to be employed.
- 3) **The Project Description**. The Project Description should include:
 - a) Specific objectives for the proposed work.
 - b) Expected significance and relation to the present state of knowledge in the field and the impacts expected from the proposed research that extend more broadly to geography education.
 - c) An outline of the general plan of work, including the broad design of activities to be undertaken.
 - d) A timeline for the project.
 - e) A clear description of research design/experimental methods and procedures, including curriculum materials and other related research and education products envisioned.
 - f) An explanation of how the research advances the frontiers of geography education by supporting and promoting innovative research in theory, practice, or application.
- 4) **The Project Budget**. Restrictions on budget items are noted under “Eligibility and Restrictions.” A line item budget must be submitted explaining all intended uses of funds that may be awarded. Applicants should note in the budget any matching or supplementary funds being used for the project. Matching funds are not required for Miller Grants, but if the proposal is part of another project, it must be noted how the Miller funds will be budgeted respectively. It is assumed that some research projects may require funds beyond those provided by the Miller award, so cost sharing is encouraged when possible or necessary.
- 5) **Supporting Materials**. Please include:
 - a) Curriculum vita of applicant(s) highlighting research or activities that are especially relevant to the proposed research (two page maximum).

For graduate student applicants:

- b) Include two letters of support from faculty members who are familiar with your work and can comment on the quality of the proposal and the anticipated likelihood that the project will be completed successfully.

Submit five (5) print copies of complete proposals by March 14, 2008 to:

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