

## **The Ohio Board of Regents**

### **Eminent Scholars Program:**

### **FY 2007 Request for Proposals**

*February 20, 2007*

**Overview.** The Ohio Board of Regents announces the Ohio Eminent Scholars Program as a competition for Eminent Scholar awards to establish endowed chairs supporting two new senior faculty members, each of whom will be associated with a Third Frontier project ([www.thirdfrontier.com](http://www.thirdfrontier.com)), such as a Wright Center of Innovation, a Wright Megacenter, a Partnership Award from the Biomedical Research and Technology Transfer Trust Fund, or a Wright Project.

The present program announcement embraces the traditional foundation of the Ohio Eminent Scholars Program to enhance the national eminence of selected outstanding academic programs at Ohio universities. The focus of the program is on already outstanding academic endeavors that, through the leadership of an Ohio Eminent Scholar, will gain increased national visibility while providing direct support for the research and technology commercialization focus of a Wright Center of Innovation, Partnership Award, or Wright Project. Accordingly, the two new Ohio Eminent Scholars will be expected to make important, direct contributions to strengthening Ohio's high-technology capabilities for research and innovation in one or more of the state's targeted focus areas:

1. advanced materials
2. biosciences
3. instruments, controls, and electronics
4. information technology
5. power and propulsion

**Characteristics of an Ohio Eminent Scholar.** An Ohio Eminent Scholar is an individual acknowledged as a scholar of distinction by national measures. As such, she or he should have a continuously distinguished record of research and scholarly achievement. The expectation is that the most substantial contributions to the discipline lie ahead in the future work of the Ohio Eminent Scholar. Moreover, an Ohio Eminent Scholar not only generates and disseminates knowledge but has, and continues to be, engaged in the education and training of other scholars. Ohio Eminent Scholars must be new hires to Ohio universities or colleges and may not be currently employed within the State of Ohio.

**Fiscal Year 2007 Funding.** The Ohio Eminent Scholars Program was created by the Ohio General Assembly, and it is administered by the Ohio Board of Regents. The program has received State of Ohio funding in the amount of \$1,370,988 for investment during Fiscal Year 2007. This level of funding will provide awards in the amount of \$685,494 for each of two endowed chairs.

Each award will be matched by an equal amount of private endowment funds to be secured by each institution receiving an award. The present announcement seeks applications from state-assisted and independent Ohio universities actively engaged in research collaborations with Partnership Award and Wright Project recipients as well as Wright Centers of Innovation. To qualify for State of Ohio funding under this program the proposing institution must raise the required matching funds using either currently available endowment funds or newly sought development funds. Institutional operating funds may not be reassigned for this purpose. Matching institutional funds totaling at least \$685,494 must be designated for the purpose of the Ohio Eminent Scholars Program at that specific institution, but additional institutional cost-share commitments may be essential if world-class senior scholars are to be attracted to Ohio.

**Institutional Eligibility.** All Ohio state-assisted and independent research universities are eligible to apply for Fiscal Year 2007 Ohio Eminent Scholars Program awards.

**Program Eligibility.** Academic programs whose faculty members possess research expertise in one or more of the five Third Frontier focus areas identified above and whose faculty members maintain active research associations with a Third Frontier project ([www.thirdfrontier.com](http://www.thirdfrontier.com)), such as a Wright Center of Innovation, a Wright Megacenter, a Wright Project, or a Partnership Award from the Biomedical Research and Technology Transfer Trust Fund are eligible to apply. An Ohio Eminent Scholar has responsibility for creating new knowledge at the cutting edge of her or his discipline. This would include direct contributions carried out through his or her own professional efforts as well as indirect contributions accomplished through the education, training, and scholarly output of students who will themselves mature into independent scholars. Programs eligible for Ohio Eminent Scholars Program funding involve doctoral research programs with a clearly demonstrated record of success in both the direct and indirect aspects of scholarly productivity.

**Previous Eminent Scholar Awards.** Academic programs with an Ohio Eminent Scholars Program award secured in a previous round of funding are eligible to compete in this round; however, clear and convincing evidence must be presented that the level of excellence within that program has been significantly enhanced as a direct result of the previous Ohio Eminent Scholars award(s). This evidence must include a discussion of the role and effectiveness of the initial Ohio Eminent Scholars award(s) and the relationship to the new proposal.

**Program Criteria.** A program proposing an Ohio Eminent Scholar should demonstrate current high academic quality and future potential for further eminence with clear presence of prestigious faculty as a key factor, as described further in the basic guidelines given below under Review Criteria. The Ohio Eminent Scholars Program advances the unique requirement that program proposals bring educational resources to bear on compelling statewide problems associated with the Third Frontier Project ([www.thirdfrontier.com](http://www.thirdfrontier.com)). Where programs could develop statewide influence, plans should be developed

to share such expertise. In furtherance of this objective, consortial arrangements involving more than one university will be viewed positively, where appropriate. Over the course of the past two decades Ohio's universities have built an impressively strong record of collaboration across many issues including research and graduate programming. It is anticipated that new Ohio Eminent Scholars will fit in with this tradition of interinstitutional collaboration. Such collaboration can be observed within many different formats and arenas and, therefore, the involvement of the new Ohio Eminent Scholar in the various forms of interinstitutional collaboration is considered a highly desirable outcome.

**Review Criteria.** The following five basic guidelines will be used to judge an academic program's potential for excellence and qualification for an Ohio Eminent Scholars Program award:

1. The presence of distinguished faculty members, including those with a substantial history of external funding along with the strong potential for attracting a scholar-leader of national eminence in a selected area of research and innovation.
2. The presence of academically outstanding graduate students along with the promise and potential for attracting additional highly-qualified pre-doctoral students.
3. The presence of research and scholarly support services which are fully adequate.
4. The existence of an academic environment with appropriate infrastructure, including buildings, classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and specialized equipment, that is conducive to the conduct of the highest quality of scholarship and research.
5. The demonstration of a direct, working relationship with an existing Wright Center of Innovation, Megacenter, Wright Project, or Partnership Award.

The proposing institution should provide an analysis of how well it can meet the above five basic criteria or what steps would have to be taken in order to do so and at what cost. While it is not necessary to identify specific senior scholars who might be potential Eminent Scholar candidates, it is important to document a high level of research excellence and productivity within the academic unit. Finally, the proposing institution must submit its plans to raise, or reassign, endowment funds at the required minimum of \$685,494 for an Ohio Eminent Scholar, which is necessary in order to qualify for state matching funds. In this manner the Ohio Eminent Scholars Program provides an opportunity for strengthening the essential relationship between higher education and the private sector for addressing cooperatively some of the state's most critical needs and for stimulating a new thrust toward a higher level of academic excellence.

**Review Process.** Proposals submitted for funding under the Fiscal Year 2007 Ohio Eminent Scholars Program will be subjected to a rigorous peer review by a panel of nationally known experts in the disciplines represented by the Third Frontier focus areas. Each member of the review panel will not only have

extensive experience in the review of nationally competitive funding applications but will live and work outside of the State of Ohio.

**Phase I: Letters of Intent.** After carefully considering the goals of this program, the mission of the institution, and the appropriateness of the proposed academic program to meet the funding criteria outlined above, institutions desiring to apply for an Ohio Eminent Scholar award must submit a letter of intent to the Ohio Board of Regents on or before **4:00 pm EST on Friday, March 30, 2007**. The letter of intent may be transmitted electronically and should indicate the specific area of focus for the proposed new Ohio Eminent Scholar in order to permit the identification of appropriate external reviewers.

**Phase II: Proposals.** Proposals must be submitted electronically in WORD or PDF format to the Ohio Board of Regents and must be received on or before **4:00 pm EST on Monday, May 7, 2007**. The total size of the electronic submission, including both the proposal narrative and the *curriculum vitae* for each principal investigator, may not exceed one megabyte. All proposals are required to incorporate the standard cover page (given on the final page of this request for proposals) with the required institutional certification from the chief academic officer. The narrative project description within the proposal is limited to twenty pages, double-spaced with a font no smaller than ten pitch. The project description should contain the following elements:

1. A complete and thorough description of the proposed Ohio Eminent Scholars position, and a complete description of the academic program, including the quality and strength of current faculty which highlights the exceptional quality of the program that will attract an Eminent Scholar. The description should include national or objective means of quality assessment in addition to internal institutional evaluation.
2. Information regarding the desired scholar's qualifications, leadership, and ability to attract a critical mass of scholars, as well as the plan for recruitment of the desired scholar. Potential Eminent Scholars include individuals who are widely recognized as top leaders in their disciplines as well as younger independent investigators who show outstanding promise for achieving such recognition. It should be noted that it is not necessary to identify specific individuals who might be potential Eminent Scholar candidates.
3. Institutional commitment and plans for raising funds for the program, as well as other special resources, including funds for the acquisition of needed capital equipment, such as major analytical instrumentation, or laboratory renovations.
4. A clear and concise statement describing how the Ohio Eminent Scholar will address critical statewide needs for applied research and technology commercialization in one or more of the five Third Frontier focus areas of advanced materials; biosciences; instruments, controls, and electronics; information technology; as well as power and propulsion.
5. Plans for sharing the program's benefits with other universities and colleges in Ohio as well as consortial arrangements in place or planned, as appropriate.

6. An outcomes assessment plan linked to the proposed objectives.
7. Brief *curricula vitarum* of key faculty who comprise the program proposed to attract an Ohio Eminent Scholar in a specific discipline must be included. The format used for the *curricula vitarum* should reflect the most relevant and appropriate work and activities, presented in a format consistent with those used by a specific discipline or by one of the federal agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health, and not exceeding two pages in length for each faculty member.

**Phase III. Evaluation Process.** After proposals have been screened administratively for completeness and general appropriateness for the Ohio Eminent Scholars Program, they will be subjected to a rigorous external peer review by experts in the disciplines who live and work outside of the State of Ohio.

**Phase IV: Program Awards.** Using the recommendations coming out of the peer review process, the Ohio Board of Regents will make the final determination of awards to be made under the Fiscal Year 2007 Ohio Eminent Scholars Program. It is anticipated that the announcement of awards will be made at the meeting of the Ohio Board of Regents scheduled for **Thursday, June 21, 2007.**

**Funds Management.** The ultimate decision on establishing and coordinating an Ohio Eminent Scholars Program will reside with the Ohio Board of Regents, which will serve as the agency responsible for verification that all conditions, both academic and fiscal, are being met on a biennial basis. Endowments will be established with appropriate monitoring systems according to standard accounting practices. State matching funds will be distributed to those institutions selected for funding only after the institutionally raised minimum of \$685,494 has been pledged for use in the institution's Ohio Eminent Scholars fund account. Once these Ohio Eminent Scholars award moneys have been transferred, they become a permanent part of the institution's endowment for the support of the new Ohio Eminent Scholar. Progress reports covering both program and fund information will be required annually.

**Timely Appointment of New Ohio Eminent Scholars.** The universities designated by the Ohio Board of Regents to receive the Fiscal Year 2007 Ohio Eminent Scholars awards are expected to hire the new senior scholars by July 1, 2009; otherwise, both the endowment funds, including earned interest but excluding local matches, must be returned to the Ohio Board of Regents for the support of future Ohio Eminent Scholars Program awards.

**Program Evaluation.** Each newly funded Ohio Eminent Scholars Program institution will be required to implement a continuous assessment plan that evaluates the Ohio Eminent Scholars program at its campus. The Ohio Board of Regents may request, as deemed necessary, a progress report from each funded program at any time and, within five years of the appointment of the Ohio Eminent Scholar, will request a major evaluation report addressing the demonstrated achievements of the objectives originally proposed by the program. In addition to other items deemed appropriate by the reporting

institution, the Ohio Eminent Scholars progress report should include the following elements:

1. Documentation that the proposed objectives are being met along with a description of the continuous assessment processes used to verify the stated outcomes.
2. Demonstration of the most significant scientific and technological achievements.
3. Documentation of the education and training of student scholars.
4. Demonstration that critical State of Ohio needs related to innovation and economic growth are being addressed.
5. Documentation of how and the manner in which the expertise developed within the program is being, or will be, shared with other institutions in Ohio through scholarly interactions, research collaborations, consortial agreements, etc.

**Timeline.** The proposed timeline given below, and described above, provides adequate time for on-campus consideration, external peer reviews, and award decisions by the Board of Regents before the conclusion of the current fiscal year:

**March 30, 2007** Letters of Intent due by electronic submission to Regents' staff by 4:00 pm EST

**May 7, 2007** Final Eminent Scholars proposals due by electronic submission to Regents' staff by 4:00 pm EST

**June 21, 2007** On the basis of recommendations made by the external peer review panel, the Board of Regents approves two Ohio Eminent Scholars Program awards.

**Program Coordination.** The Ohio Eminent Scholars Program will be coordinated by Dr. Harry Andrist, Director of Research and Graduate Programs, Ohio Board of Regents, who may be contacted at 614-752-9539 or via email to [handrist@regents.state.oh.us](mailto:handrist@regents.state.oh.us). All letters of intent and program proposals submitted in response to this request for proposals to the Fiscal Year 2007 Ohio Eminent Scholars Program should be forwarded electronically to Dr. Andrist using the email address given above. All final proposals should incorporate the standard cover page given on the following page with the required institutional certification from the institution's chief academic officer.

**Ohio Board of Regents**

**Eminent Scholars Program**

**Fiscal Year 2007**

**1. Institution and Chief Academic Officer:**

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street/Building/P.O. Box Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: OH Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Academic Officer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Academic Officer's Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Proposal Information:**

Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lead Academic College, Department, Institute, or Academic Program: \_\_\_\_\_  
Academic Department(s) Involved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Collaborating Wright Center(s) of Innovation or Megacenter: \_\_\_\_\_  
Collaborating Partnership Award Recipient(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Collaborating Wright Project Recipient(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Project Budget:**

State of Ohio Eminent Scholar Program Award Requested: \$685,494  
Minimally Required Institutional Matching Funds: \$685,494  
Additional Institutional Cost-Share to be Committed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Endowment Funds: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Collaborating Institutions and Organizations (if appropriate):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Institutional Certification and Endorsement:**

The signature of the institution's chief academic officer below certifies that the information contained in this proposal is accurate and, further, that the institution endorses the objectives of the Ohio Eminent Scholars Program by agreeing to make the specific investments outlined in the attached proposal.

Chief Academic Officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_