




Visiting Faculty Program (VFP) Informational Webinar

Talent Acquisition, Diversity & Inclusion Department
24 July 2020



“The Visiting Faculty Program (VFP) seeks to increase the research competitiveness of faculty members and their students at institutions historically underrepresented in the research community in order to expand the workforce vital to the Department of Energy (DOE) mission areas.”

“The experience enables visiting faculty to develop skills that translate to programs at their home institutions, which in turn helps sustain the scientific vibrancy required to grow the STEM workforce pipeline in key DOE science mission areas.”

U.S. Department of Energy

Overview

- University/college faculty collaborate with Fermilab scientists, engineers, and computing professionals on a research project of mutual interest
- Faculty members have the option to invite up to two students (one of which may be a graduate student) to participate in the project
- Faculty/student teams come to Fermilab for 10-weeks during the summer to work on the research project with Fermilab staff
- The teams can return to Fermilab for up to 3 consecutive summers
- The application process includes a research project proposal co-written by the VFP faculty/Fermilab team

Overview

- The program is sponsored and managed by the DOE Office of Science's Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists (WDTS) in collaboration with DOE labs
- The Talent Acquisition, Diversity & Inclusion Department manages the VFP at Fermilab
- The Fermilab VFP Team is:
 - Sandra Charles
 - Bo Jayatilaka
 - Kathrine Laureto
 - Tanya Levshina
 - Jimmy McLeod
 - Jeomar Montelon
 - Kappatolia Sherman
 - Sam Zeller

Benefits of the VFP

- The program brings attention to all the exciting research happening at Fermilab
- It's a great way to expand our diverse recruiting network and help attract Fermilab's future workforce
- The VFP can act as a training program in areas of specialized knowledge and skills that Fermilab needs
- Faculty members build collaborative relationships with DOE research scientists and become familiar with scientific user facilities
- Students participate in enrichment activities, including professional development (research project report and oral presentation), laboratory tours, scientific lectures and seminars

Benefits of the VFP

- Participating faculty members receive a 10-week stipend of \$14,000
- Participating undergraduate students receive a stipend of \$600 per week during the internship (Participating graduate students are supported by their home academic institutions and the VFP provides no additional stipend)
- Faculty and undergraduate/graduate students are reimbursed for their round-trip travel expenses to and from Fermilab
- Housing is provided for faculty and undergraduate/graduate students

Eligibility Requirements - Faculty

- Must be a United States Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident
- Must be a full-time faculty member at an accredited U.S. college, university, or community college historically underrepresented in the U.S. research community
- Faculty members at a university categorized as R1 or R2 (Carnegie Classifications) are not eligible, *unless* the applicant is a faculty member at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU)
- Must be a full-time faculty member in an area of physics, chemistry, biology (non-medical), engineering, environmental sciences, geology or geosciences, mathematics, materials sciences, or computer or computational sciences
- [List of ineligible institutions](#)

Eligibility Requirements - Students

- Must be a United States Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident
- Must be invited to participate by the applying faculty member
- Must be 18 years or older at the time the program begins
- Must be currently enrolled as a full-time student in an area of science, mathematics, engineering, or technology at the same university/college as the applying faculty member
- Must have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale

Application Process

- All applications to the VFP program must be completed through the online application system
- Documents required for application:
 - Contact and Academic Information
 - Research Proposal
 - Essays
 - Current Curriculum Vitae (CV)
 - Undergraduate transcripts
 - Two Recommendations
- The research project proposal is co-developed between the faculty and Fermilab team (project co-Principal Investigators) and submitted online
- Submitted proposals are reviewed and evaluated based on three criteria (shown on next slide)

Application Process

“The merit review process evaluates three criteria, listed below in order of decreasing importance:

1. Scientific and/or technical merit of the project, including DOE mission relevancy and the influence that the results might have on the direction, progress, and thinking in relevant scientific fields of research; the likelihood of achieving valuable results; and the scientific innovation and originality indicated in the proposed research.
1. Appropriateness of the proposed method or approach, including the logic and feasibility of the research approaches and the soundness of the conduct of the research.
1. Competency of the personnel and adequacy of proposed resources, including the background, past performance, and potential of the investigator(s); and the research environment and facilities for performing the research.”

Timeline

Event/Task	Deadline	Deadline Type
VFP webinar for interested faculty	August 28 th	<i>Fermilab date</i>
Fermilab/faculty teams identified	October 9 th	<i>Fermilab date</i>
Online application opens	October 16 th	<i>DOE date*</i>
Applications due	January 9 th	<i>DOE date*</i>
Offer notification period begins	January 28 th	<i>DOE date*</i>
All DOE offers and notifications complete	April 3 rd	<i>DOE date*</i>
Start of Summer 2021 VFP	June 1 st	<i>Fermilab date</i>

*The DOE dates shown are for the Summer 2020 program session. Dates for the Summer 2021 program session are not yet available

Previous Experience with the VFP

- Bob Zwaska (AD Target Systems Department Head) gives an overview of his experience with the program

Next Steps

- Currently looking to establish Fermilab/faculty teams for Summer 2021
- The VFP is competitive across the entire national lab complex, there isn't a quota per lab. We are encouraging as many proposals as possible!
- Contact Kathrine Laureto (klaureto@fnal.gov)
 - If you are interested in participating
 - If you know faculty members who might be interested in participating
 - If you have any questions or comments about the program
- [Indico page](#) has PowerPoint slides
- A recording of this webinar will be available
- For more information, visit:
 - [Fermilab VFP webpage](#)
 - [Department of Energy VFP webpage](#)

Thank you for your time!

Are there any questions?