Submission Deadline & Time: March 30, 2010

Direct Questions to:
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I. INTRODUCTION

About the Thurgood Marshall College Fund
The Thurgood Marshall College Fund, Inc., (TMCF) named for the late U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice, was established in 1987 and represents 47 public Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) located in 22 states with a population of well over 235,000 students. Over the last 21 years, Thurgood Marshall College Fund has awarded more than $90.5 million in scholarships, programmatic, and capacity support, enabling over 7,500 students to attend public Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Thurgood Marshall College Fund also provides internship programs and joins corporate and foundation partners in providing leadership training and support to students preparing for undergraduate and professional schools. Thurgood Marshall College Fund is a 501(c) 3, tax-exempt organization. Please visit the Thurgood Marshall College Fund at www.thurgoodmarshallfund.net.

TMCF is committed to playing a major role in serving American citizens by answering the call to join forces with the Department of Defense Air Force Office of Scientific Research (DOD AFOSR) to meet the national challenge to ensure that the nation is producing the future technology and engineering workforce essential to meet Defense and national security needs.

Six research awards of $10,000 each will be granted to the best proposals.

II. PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Program Overview

TMCF will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to its HBCU member colleges and universities to conduct basic research in areas that support innovative research addressing new and emerging scientific areas and foster fundamental discoveries related to the DOD AFOSR’s most challenging technical problems.

Topics ideas for proposals on areas of interest to DOD include:

- counter weapons of mass destruction
- network sciences, energy and power management
- quantum information sciences
- human sciences
- science of autonomy
- information assurance
- biosensors and bio-inspired systems
- information fusion and decision science
- energy and power management

TMCF encourages the collaboration with non-HBCUs to strengthen and widen the impact of this research to undergraduate and graduate students across the country.
Six research awards of **$10,000** each will be granted to the best proposals.

**Eligibility**

This Request for Proposal is intended for faculty members from the 47 member public HBCUs affiliated with TMCF. Faculty member can tailor the proposal to their research discipline of choice as it surrounds the topic given above.

**Selection Criteria**

TMCF has selected an ad-hoc committee that will be responsible for reviewing the submitted proposals and selecting awardees.

Awards will be given on the basis of the strength of the following (as determined by a selection committee):

- The description of proposal goals and objectives;
- The plan that describes how the needs, goals and objectives will be met; and
- The evaluation system for measuring progress and the impact of the proposed initiative.

These awards will solely support the implementation of the research methods described in the original proposal that the faculty member submitted to TMCF.

**Reporting Requirements**

The faculty members are required to submit interim reports on the progress and hardships (if any) of their program for the duration of the implementation period. The identified TMCF contact for this grant is to be notified about all hardships or mishaps that may occur during the implementation process that may have an impact on the original proposal. Should any of the awarded faculty members have to halt their program under any circumstance, they are required to notify TMCF promptly before and after the decision is rendered. They are to provide TMCF, in writing, a full report of all the events that led to the decision.

**III. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

Faculty members wishing to participate in the program must submit a proposal in accordance with the program and proposal guidelines, and include all attachments and documentation requested. Although there is no strict proposal format, the following headers are suggested and are followed by a brief explanation of the kind of information that would be helpful in each section of your proposal.

The process is competitive; therefore, it is critical to follow the instructions and guidelines outlined in this RFP. All proposals are due **March 30, 2010**. Proposals received after 12:00
Title Page

All proposals should have a title page indicating the name of the school, title of the proposal, and contact person for the proposal (if different from the individual preparing the proposal).

Abstract

The abstract is a brief summary of approximately 300 words. It should include the research question, the rationale for the study, the hypothesis (if any), the method and the main findings.

Statement of Research Questions

The statement of research questions is a brief statement detailing and conceptualizing your research questions. You can also provide background information or context in order to frame your research problem.

Significance of Research

This section convinces your reader that your proposed research will make a significant and substantial contribution to the subject matter.

Literature Review

The literature review ensures that you are not "reinventing the wheel" and gives credits to those who have laid the groundwork for your research. It also demonstrates your knowledge of the research problem stated in the in the above sections.

Conceptual Framework (if applicable)

This section displays your understanding of the theoretical and research issues related to your research. It also shows your ability to critically evaluate relevant information related to the subject matter. Lastly, it provides new theoretical insights or develops a new model as the conceptual framework for your research.

Methodology

The methodology section is very important because it tells the ad-hoc committee how you plan to tackle your research problem. It will provide your work plan and describe the activities necessary for the completion of your project.
**Plan for Dissemination**

The plan for dissemination is a statement including the medium through which the research can best be delivered to a specific targeted audience. You should also describe the capabilities and resources for dissemination. The discussion of potential strategic alliances and partnerships can also be included.

**Statement of How Grant Funds will be Used**

It is important to state how the grant funds will be utilized in your research, so this section can be used to outline the impact the funds will have on your particular research.

**Proposal Attachment**

The following attachments are required for your proposal to be considered complete:

- Curriculum vitae outlining the qualifications and experiences of the individual leading the research; and
- One letter of recommendation from someone who can speak to your level of expertise.

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE**

The contact person for this RFP is Crystal D. Hadnott. Please direct all your questions and inquiries to her. You are required to email an electronic copy as well as mail a hardcopy to the contact information below:

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