



## **The Computing Innovation Fellows Project Announces a New Call for Applications**

*An Opportunity for New Computing-related Ph.D.s for the 2010-11 Academic Year*

**Project Description.** Following up on a highly successful inaugural class in 2009-10, the Computing Innovation Fellows (CIFellows) Project (see <http://cifellows.org>) anticipates making around 40 new grants to recent Ph.D. graduates in computer science, computer engineering, information science, and closely related fields. Grants will provide funding for one year of work with a mentor at a host organization. Awardees (henceforth “CIFellows”) will be eligible to apply for a second year of funding to follow the first year.

As in the previous year, the project seeks to involve many organizations and sub-disciplines in order to encourage cross-flow and broad participation. In particular, it is anticipated that no more than two CIFellowships will be awarded to graduates of the same institution in 2010 and that no organization will host more than two CIFellows. It is expected that the project will involve at least 30 different organizations.

Each CIFellow must have a committed mentor at a host organization, identified as part of the application process. CIFellows may engage in research, teaching, and/or other activities, such as public policy work, that contribute to the advancement and vitality of computer science and allied disciplines.

**Eligibility.** A CIFellow must have completed (or be prepared to complete) all requirements for graduation from a U.S. Ph.D. program between May 1, 2009, and August 31, 2010. The Ph.D. must be in computer science, computer engineering, information science, or a closely related field. Preference will be given to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, but others will be considered.

**Award Size and Duration.** We anticipate that awards will be for \$75,000 salary for 12 months with approximately \$25,000 for fringe benefits and a \$15,000 allowance for moving, travel, and discretionary expenses. Host organizations will receive indirect costs at the 25% rate. The 12-month assignment must begin by November 1, 2010.

**CIFellows Website.** The CIFellows website can be found at <http://cifellows.org>. This website contains a number of resources, including a FAQ, application materials and submission instructions, information for mentors, and an area for prospective mentors to indicate their interests.

**Proposal Content and Format.** A complete application comprises the following materials submitted by May 23, 2010, 5 p.m. EDT:

- A one page statement of research accomplishments;
- A two-page statement of goals for scholarly activity, teaching, and/or other proposed activities, including a statement of the intellectual merits and broader impacts of the proposed work;
- A curriculum vitae;
- Two confidential letters of reference submitted separately (i.e., directly) by the recommenders following the instructions on the website (note that one of these letters will normally be from the applicant's Ph.D. advisor);
- A letter from the applicant's Ph.D. advisor or department chair stating that the applicant will have completed all work toward a Ph.D. degree by August 31, 2010; and
- A list of one to three proposed mentors who must be from U.S. institutions different from the applicant's graduate institution (note that the goals of the CIFellows project favor selecting mentors at a broad range of institutions).

The applicants must also, for each proposed mentor, compile and submit as part of the above application the following:

- A one-page document from the applicant indicating the sub-discipline of the proposed work with the mentor (see a list of sub-disciplines on the CIFellows website, <http://cifellows.org>), the rationale for the choice of mentor and the expected benefits of working with the mentor, as well as the relationship of the activity to the applicant's career goals; and
- A one-page document from the proposed mentor indicating a commitment to work with the prospective CIFellow, describing a mentoring plan, and summarizing the mentor's prior record of mentoring (see "Information for Prospective Mentors and Host Organizations" below). *Note: Unlike last year, endorsements from proposed mentors must be submitted by the CIFellow as part of his/her application materials; refer to the application forms on the CIFellows website.*

**Identifying Mentors and Mentees.** The CIFellows website provides a facility to help applicants identify mentors and to allow prospective mentors to express interest in mentoring a CIFellow: <http://match.cifellows.org>. Postings are organized by sub-disciplinary categories and mentors may place short postings on this site under one or more of these categories. Mentors are encouraged to include their mentoring credentials and planned mentoring activities on this site along with contact information to allow prospective CIFellows to contact them. Applicants are not required to choose mentors from this website.

**Information for Prospective Mentors and Host Institutions.** Once a prospective mentor has agreed to support an applicant's candidacy, the mentor must provide the applicant with a one-page letter of support including the mentoring plan. In addition, the mentor must indicate that the mentor and the host organization are committed to hosting the CIFellow. This document

comprises part of the candidate's application materials (see "Proposal Content and Format" above)—and must be submitted by the prospective CIFellow.

**Evaluation of Proposals.** Proposals will be evaluated by a broadly representative committee from industry and academia. Applications will be evaluated based on:

- The applicant's record of research and other accomplishments as they relate to the proposed work;
- The strength of the proposed activity with respect to intellectual merit and broader impact;
- The quality and suitability of the mentoring plan for the CIFellow's future work; and
- The contribution to the CIFellows Project's objectives of enhancing cross-flow between institutions and diversity of represented sub-disciplines

Since it is anticipated that at most two CIFellows will be selected from any institution and at most two CIFellows will be hosted by any organization, applicants are encouraged to identify up to three possible mentors at different organizations. If the application is successful, the award will be for work with a specific mentor. Applications from women and underrepresented minorities are strongly encouraged.

Awards are expected to be announced by July 1, 2010.

**Award Administration.** Awards will be administered through the Sponsored Projects Offices at host organizations. CIFellows and their mentors will be required to complete short reports during each funded year.

**Additional information.** For further information, please consult <http://cifellows.org>. Additional questions may be directed to [contact@cifellows.org](mailto:contact@cifellows.org).