**Polar Investigation Opportunities (Request For Proposals)**

**Program Solicitation:** P-ICE 16-011

**Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time):**

* California: December 2, 2016
* New Jersey: March 17, 2017

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

* All students participating in Polar-ICE Sci-I Project 2016-17 are expected to submit a proposal.
* Individual PIs (students) may be listed on no more than one proposal.
* No more than 4 PIs (students) may be listed on a proposal.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

The Polar-ICE Sci-I Project invites investigators (students) at participating California and New Jersey schools to submit proposals to the Polar-ICE Sci-I Project Team to conduct research about the polar region(s).

The Polar-ICE Sci-I Project supports investigations about the Arctic and/or Antarctic region(s) and provides technological support for accessing authentic polar data. Polar-ICE Sci-I Project supports disciplinary, multidisciplinary, and interdisciplinary investigations directed at understanding the Arctic and/or Antarctic region(s) alone or with its connection with lower latitudes as well. Proposals conducting an investigation using data outside the Polar Regions should include a clear statement of how the proposed investigation will increase an understanding of the pole(s).

**II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Polar-ICE Sci-I Project solicits proposals for investigations that advance an understanding of ecosystem and/or environment components in the Arctic and/or Antarctic.

A successful investigation must state how authentic polar data will be used to look into the proposed testable question. The Polar-ICE program supports investigations focused on either the Arctic or Antarctic regions alone or the connection with lower latitudes.

This solicitation encourages, but is not limited to, submission of the following types of proposals:

* Investigations of relationships among biological variables
* Investigations of relationships among environmental variables
* Investigations of relationships among a biological and an environmental variable
* Investigations of patterns over time in a biological variable
* Investigations of patterns over time in an environmental variable
* Investigations of similarities or differences in patterns of a biological variable at the pole vs. in temperate latitudes
* Investigations of similarities or differences in patterns of an environmental variable at the pole vs. in temperate latitudes

**III. AWARD INFORMATION**

Polar-ICE estimates that more than 250 proposals per year will be reviewed.

**IV. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

*Who May Submit Proposals:*

Proposals may only be submitted by the following: all California and New Jersey middle and high school students participating in the Polar-ICE Sci-I Project 2016.

*Limit on Number of Proposals per School:*

There are no restrictions or limits.

*Limit on Number of Proposals per PI (student):*

Individual PIs (students) may be listed on only one proposal.

*Limit on Number of PIs (students) on a Proposal:*

No more than 4 PIs (students) can be on a proposal.

**V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

*A. Proposal Preparation Instructions*

Letters of Intent: Not required

Preliminary Proposal Submission: Not required

Full Proposals: Any proposal submitted in response to this solicitation should be submitted in accordance with the Polar-ICE Sci-I Project Mini Proposal Guidelines. Full proposals must be submitted via uploading them into the PIs (students) corresponding school subfolder within the “Student Investigation Mini-Proposals – upload them here by school” folder of the Polar-ICE Sci-I Project 2016-17 – Teacher Google folder.

*B. Budgetary Information*: Not applicable

*C. Due Dates*

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time):

* + California: December 2, 2016
	+ New Jersey: March 17, 2017

**VI. NSF PROPOSAL PROCESSING AND REVIEW PROCEDURES**

Proposals received by the Polar-ICE Sci-I Project Team are assigned to one of the program officers for this solicitation. The team carefully reviews all proposals, with one team member providing written feedback per proposal. Care is taken to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts of interest with the proposal. Polar-ICE is committed to diversity and deems it central to the participants and investigations it supports.

*A. Merit Review Principles and Criteria*

The Polar-ICE Sci-I Project Team strives to support robust and diverse investigations that create new knowledge and enable breakthroughs in understanding across all areas of polar science. We make every effort to conduct a fair, competitive, transparent merit review process for the selection of projects.

All Polar-ICE Sci-I Project investigations should be of the highest quality and have the potential to advance our understanding of the topic area of the investigation.

When evaluating Polar-ICE Sci-I Project proposals, reviewers will consider what the proposers want to do, why they want to do it, how they plan to do it, and how they will approach using their data to look at their testable question.

Remember, proposals including in their investigation data from outside the polar region must contain a clear statement of how the proposed investigation will increase our knowledge of the pole.

*B. Review and Feedback Process*

The listed program officers will review proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation. They will provide feedback on the proposals using Mini Proposal Feedback Form. An accompanying narrative will be included in the feedback form.

Once Mini Proposal Feedback Form has been completed, Principal Investigators are provided the feedback about their proposals (within 3 weeks of submission to the Polar-ICE Sci-I Project Team).

**VII. PROJECT CONTACTS (Program Officers)**

The Polar-ICE Sci-I Project Team reviews all proposals. The Polar-ICE Sci-I Project Team also provides logistical and technological support to enable successful completion of the proposed investigations.

Bridgette Clarkston, Sci-I Project 2016-17 co-coordinator, email: bclarkston@csumb.edu (NOTE – Bridgette is on maternity leave until 1/17/17)

Kristen Hart, Graduate Student and Teaching Associate, email: krihart@csumb.edu

Kristin Hunter-Thomson, Sci-I Project 2016-17 co-coordinator, email: hunterthomson@marine.rutgers.edu

**VIII. OTHER INFORMATION**

The Polar-ICE Sci-I project website provides a comprehensive source of information on expectations of the kinds of investigations to complete as part of the project (<http://polar-ice.org/educator-resources/sci-i-workshops/#investigations>). Additionally, the Sci-I Project 2016-17 post includes multiple resources (<http://polar-ice.org/2016/06/polar-ice-sci-i-project-2016/#resources>). Use of these websites by potential proposers is strongly encouraged.

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The Polar-ICE Sci-I project promotes and advances students’ understanding of the process of science in participating schools by providing supportive feedback early in the stage of investigation design, technological support throughout the investigations, and an opportunity to showcase the results at the culminating Student Polar Research Symposiums (<http://polar-ice.org/educator-resources/polar-srs/>).

To get the latest information about Polar-ICE, visit the website at <http://polar-ice.org/>.