Federal Cyber Service: Scholarship For Service (SFS) Program

CEISARE Joint Workshop on Cyber Security

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May 8, 2008
**Mission:** To increase the pool of Federal Information Assurance (IA) professionals (i.e., those who protect the Government’s technological infrastructure)

**Scholarships:** Support tuition, room/board, and fees, plus stipends for up to 2 years of undergraduate or graduate study

**Commitment:** Students serve through internship and permanent placement in a Federal agency for a period equal in length to scholarship support

**Sponsorship:** Co-sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Department of Homeland Security; scholarships are funded through grants awarded to academic institutions by NSF
SFS Program Goals

- To increase the national capacity for educating information technology (IT) specialist in IA disciplines
- To produce new entrants to the Federal IA workforce
- To increase national R&D capabilities in IA
- To strengthen partnerships between institutions of higher learning and relevant employment sectors
Program Components

SFS program tracks

- Scholarship [S]
- Capacity building [C]

Institutional requirements

- NSA/DHS CAEIAE designation (or equivalent) [C,S]
- Full-time program of study in IA field(s) [C,S]
- Student support and program management infrastructure [S]
- Student placement/OPM interface infrastructure [S]
Scholarship Track

- Typical institutional award ~ $1.2M across four years; supporting roughly 15 students
- Funding: tuition, room/board, fees, and stipends - $8,000/yr (UG), $12,000/yr (GR)
- Length: 2 year scholarship for final 2 years of UG or GR (master’s or doctoral)
- Obligation: Summer internship + post-graduation service requirement equal to scholarship length in a Federal Agency
Scholarship students must be

- full-time in an IA program of study at the awardee institution
- U.S. citizens
Capacity Building Track

- Funding up to $150,000/year for two years for curriculum & faculty development
- Partnerships with minority serving institutions are encouraged through additional funding of up to $150,000/year for two years
- Typical projects include faculty development, educational materials development, and laboratory improvement
Recent SFS Statistics

- 31 Scholarship institutions
- >900 SFS scholarship recipients
  - 638 completed internship
  - 616 placed in Federal government
- Overall placement rate 91%
- 76 capacity building grants awarded to more than 70 institutions
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<th>SFS Participating Institutions</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Air Force Institute of Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Auburn University</td>
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<td>Alabama State</td>
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<td>Tuskegee University</td>
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<td>3. Carnegie Mellon University</td>
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<td>4. Florida State University</td>
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<td>5. George Washington University</td>
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<td>7. Idaho State University</td>
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<td>Jackson State University</td>
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<td>11. Naval Postgraduate School</td>
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<td>12. New Mexico Institute of Mining &amp; Tech</td>
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<td>13. Norwich University</td>
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<td>14. Polytechnic University</td>
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<td>16. Stony Brook University</td>
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<td>18. University of California, Irvine</td>
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<td>20. University of Nebraska – Omaha</td>
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<td>21. University of North Carolina – Charlotte</td>
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<td>North Carolina A&amp;T State</td>
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<td>22. University of Tulsa</td>
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<td>23. University of Pittsburgh</td>
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SFS School Locations

- States with at least one school participating
Proposal Submissions

- SFS Solicitation posted on NSF website
- Proposal deadline in solicitation (March 20, 2008 for the current competition)
- Follow NSF Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) requirements (font, number of pages in project description, etc.)
- Review successful prior awards – if possible, get copies of proposals from the PIs
- Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts
Intellectual Merit

- Quality of academic program
- Qualifications of PIs
- Faculty involvement with students
- Evaluation plan
- Faculty development plans
- Clear management plan
- Plans for students to enter Federal Cyber Service
- Innovative community building
Impact on the Information Assurance education field

Dissemination of project as a national model

Participation of under-represented groups
Desirable Project Characteristics

- Strong faculty and curriculum
- Clear management plan
- Partnerships with industry and outreach
- Enough students for scholarships requested
- Well-defined student support structure, including recruitment, retention, and placement (liaison with OPM)
Agency Recruiting/Hiring

- Register at www.sfs.opm.gov
- Review Agency Toolkit
- Search student database
- Review resumes
- Contact SFS institutions through the Principal Investigator
- Contact students directly
2008 SFS Job Fair

When: January 7-9, 2008
Where: Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC
Who: SFS scholarship recipients, PIs, Agency Representatives

2009 Job Fair dates/location to be determined
Information Assurance Scholarship Program

- Offered by the Department of Defense
- Similar in scope/purpose to SFS
- Awards go to CAEIAE institutions
- Scholarship awardees are pre-selected by the hiring agencies
- Capacity building grants also available
- See http://www.defenselink.mil/cio-nii/iasp/ or contact AskCAEIAE@nsa.gov for more information
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