



National Association for Sport & Physical Education

an association of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

NASPE Sets the Standard

1900 Association Drive,
Reston, Virginia 20191
Telephone (703) 476-3410
Fax (703) 476-8316
E-mail naspe@aahperd.org
Web www.naspeinfo.org

Request for Proposals NASPE Professional Preparation and Research Steering Committee Helen Heitmann Funds Research Project

Name of Project/Activity: *Increasing Higher Education Faculty and Doctoral Students*

Background: Over the past few years, several doctoral programs in Physical Education and Exercise Science have been eliminated across the country. Although various reasons may have been cited for the cuts at different institutions, one overriding issue has been the shortage of experienced faculty members to fill vacancies in the programs. A second reason for the cuts has been a decline in the number of applicants/candidates seeking the degrees in higher education. This has resulted in a critical shortage in candidates for candidate positions in physical education teacher preparation programs and related disciplines, including motor behavior, biomechanics, et al. For example in one recent year, there were 80 positions announced in sport pedagogy and teacher preparation, and many remained unfilled due to insufficient candidate pools. Furthermore, the work of professional preparation faculty members (community outreach, service, teacher education, action research, teaching) is often not valued equitably by institutional promotion and tenure review committees – resulting in workforce reductions (lack of tenure and promotion) of existing faculty members, and concerns by doctoral candidates related to pursuing terminal degrees in those disciplines.

In the summer of 2007, the Professional Preparation and Research Steering Committee (PPRSC) of NASPE identified this project as a high priority for research and funding. The NASPE Board of Directors concurred with the PPRSC's recommendations, and recommended funding for an investigational project into the causes of the decline of higher education faculty and the reductions in doctoral granting programs. Therefore, up to \$10,000 has been set aside for one study, to be concluded by June 10, 2010.

Purpose of research project: In order to determine the direction needed to reverse the trends of doctoral programs decline and the shortage of qualified higher education faculty members in Physical Education Teacher Education and related fields, a \$10,000 research grant is being funded by the Helen Heitmann Funds, through NASPE. Specific outcomes of the project will include:

1. ...a determination of the current number of doctoral programs and specialty preparation areas in Kinesiology/PETE disciplines.
2. ...an examination of the supply of new graduates and demand for faculty members in Kinesiology disciplines (survey)
3. ...an analysis of the reasons for recent reductions in the number of programs

4. ...suggestions for strategies that may attract more professionals (Ph.D./Ed.D. candidates) to Higher Education positions in Kinesiology disciplines with greatest need, such as
 - ... encouraging young teaching professionals to pursue careers in higher education
 - ... attracting highly energetic and qualified candidates to graduate programs
 - ... examining alternative strategies for obtaining degrees (i.e. summer only programs, etc.)
5. ...strategies to advocate the importance of faculty work in professional preparation programs
6. ...strategies to assist in the mentoring of junior faculty members in critical shortage areas through the promotion and tenure paths
7. ...suggestions to reverse the trend in declining programs and increase the number of doctoral graduates to fill positions around the country

Target Audience(s): Professional Preparation programs/Higher Education Institutions

Timeline:

Proposal deadline:	January 15, 2009
Notification of award:	March 1, 2009
Submission of Institutional Review Board assurance:	April 15, 2009
Final report due to NASPE:	January 31, 2010

Proposal guidelines:

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and a project proposal (10 -15 pages) addressing the goals of the project and the plans for addressing the research questions. The proposal shall be submitted electronically to Rian Landers (rlanders@aaahperd.org) as an attachment to an e-mail, in a Times New Roman, 12 point font, MS Word document, with the following information:

- Overview and research plan: 2-3 pages
- Research activities and goals: 1-2 pages
- Methods and Analysis: 1-2 pages
- Budget: 1 page
- Timeline for project 1 page
- Deliverables: 1-2 pages
- Brief biography of researcher(s) addressing background/ability to complete the project within the program requirements: 1-2 pages per applicant

The cover letter should include contact information for the lead investigator, and the institutional review board contact address, under which the research will be monitored.

Eligibility: All NASPE members are eligible to apply for the grant except those involved in the review or approval processes. The principal investigator must be a current member of NASPE/AAHPERD and have been a member of NASPE for the past three years at the time of

application. All principal and co-investigators must be current members of NASPE and maintain their membership during the entire funding period. The principal investigator must reside at the institution where the research is being conducted.

Detailed information about the NASPE Heitmann Research Grant Program including requirements and criteria can be found at www.naspeinfo.org, under Awards and Recognitions. All questions and items submitted to NASPE must be sent electronically to naspe@aahperd.org with a subject line of Heitmann Research grant.