Summary: The NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program is designed to encourage the development of bold, new, potentially transformative, and scalable models for STEM graduate training that ensure that graduate students develop the skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to pursue a range of STEM careers. The NRT program initially has one priority research theme - Data-Enabled Science and Engineering (DESE); in addition, proposals are encouraged on any other crosscutting, interdisciplinary theme. In either case, proposals should identify the alignment of project research themes with national research priorities and the need for innovative approaches to train graduate students in those areas. NRT projects should develop evidence-based, sustainable approaches and practices that substantially improve STEM graduate education for NRT trainees and for STEM graduate students broadly at an institution. NRT emphasizes the development of competencies for both research and research-related careers. Strategic collaborations with the private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies, museums, and academic partners that enhance research quality and impacts and that facilitate development of technical and transferrable professional skills are encouraged. Creation of sustainable programmatic capacity at institutions is an expected outcome. Proposals accordingly are expected to describe how institutions will support the continuation and institutional-level scaling of effective training elements after award closure.

Proposal Limitations: Each institution may submit up to two proposals. If an institution submits only one proposal, it can be in either DESE or another theme. If an institution submits two proposals, at least one must be in DESE. In any case, the traineeship theme(s) should be interdisciplinary.

Selection Process: The following procedures for an internal Notice of Intent (NOI) describe the process to select the proposal that will be submitted on behalf of the University. Should more than the allowable number of NOIs be received from across the University, a review process will be implemented by the OVPR to select that proposal which will represent the University. The OVPR will notify each applicant whether or not their proposal has been selected to move forward and represent the University.

Proposal Schedule: Internal NOI due to OSP on 12 May 2014, 5:00 p.m. CDT
Notification of NOIs selected to move forward by 16 May 5:00 p.m. CDT
Letter of Intent due to NSF (optional) 20 May 2014
Full Proposal due to OSP on 18 June 2014, 8:00 a.m. CDT
Full Proposal due to NSF on 24 June 2014, 5:00 p.m. CDT
NOI Format and Content:
Proposal pages should have at least 1” margins all around, and use no smaller than an 11-point font for the text. Tables and figures are exempt from the 11-point requirement, but must be clearly legible.

Submission Method: Electronic files emailed to OSP Contract Administrator.

NOI Contents:
1. Cover Page:
   a. Include “NSF 14-548 NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) DESE” OR “NSF 14-548 NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) Other Theme – name”
   b. The proposal title should begin with component acronym “NRT.” For example, “NRT: This is My Proposal Title.”
   c. Names, departments/centers, and email address for each PI, Co-I, and key personnel.

2. Project Summary: (Limit: 2 pages double-spaced) The Project Summary must consist of an overview, a separate statement on the intellectual merit of the proposed activity, and a separate statement on the broader impacts of the proposed activity.

3. Project Description: (Limit: 6 pages, double-spaced) (See NSF 14-548 section V.A. 4. a-i for information required for full proposal project description. Provide only a brief summary of each element listed below for this internal 6-page limit).
   a. List of Core Participants.
   b. Theme, Vision, and Goals
   c. Education and Training:
   d. Major Research Efforts
   e. Broader Impacts
   f. Organization and Management
   g. Performance Assessment/Project Evaluation
   h. Recruitment, Mentoring, and Retention
   i. Recent Student Training Experiences

4. One to two-page tentative budget and budget justification showing estimated costs and justification (the OSP Contract Administrator is available to assist you if requested)

5. One to two-page bio for each PI, Co-I and key personnel proposed.

Questions about the internal NOI preparation or process should be directed to your OSP Contract Administrator.