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May 31, 2006

TO: System and Campus Heads

FROM: E. Joseph Savoie, Commissioner of Higher Education

RE: White Papers Invited to Help Define the Post-Katrina Support Fund Initiative (P-KSFI)

WHITE PAPERS ARE DUE BY JULY 10, 2006

Background and Call for White Papers

At its meeting of December 2005, the Board of Regents approved establishment of the five-year P-KSFI, to be funded during FYs 2006/07-2010/11, with up to \$5 million per year in Support Fund dollars. The Board later established, as an integral component of the P-KSFI, the Enhancement of Severely Impacted Programs (ESIP) initiative, to be funded only during 2006-07, at the level of \$1.8 million, with eligibility extended only to severely impacted campuses.

At its May 2006 meeting, the Board authorized an external advisory review during June-August 2006, which will help chart directions for the P-KSFI, inclusive of ESIP. The review team's recommended priorities for the P-KSFI will set the stage for the subsequent development of FY 2006-07 RFPs. The P-KSFI will provide funding for two types of projects: **Primarily Research** (with educational components) and **Primarily Education** (with research components). Both types of projects will address workforce needs and promote economic development. For a general description and information about the P-KSFI, see the Appendix.

To assist the advisory review team in defining parameters of the P-KSFI, we request that thoughtful white papers of five pages or less be developed and submitted. These papers should suggest approaches to P-KSFI investments which will maximize the attainment of research, educational, and economic development goals. This memo along with its Appendix and its Attachment will also be posted on the BoRSF website at <http://laregents.org>. The white papers will be vital to development of the P-KSFI; they will be submitted to the reviewers as part of an initial package of materials and will be supplemented by group interviews.

Memorandum
May 31, 2006
Page 2

Due to the necessity of completing design of the program and issuing an RFP by the end of the summer, the timeline for the advisory review is necessarily short. White papers of five pages or less should be submitted no later than July 10, 2006.

Primarily Research Projects

Primarily Research projects will be multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional in composition, embrace any or all programmatic components of the Support Fund, and receive multiple years of support. The goal of these projects will be attainment of national and international scientific excellence at the highest levels. **Primarily Research** projects may be led only by researchers from campuses which have doctoral programs in three or more disciplines. To gauge past experience and potential future investments of **Primarily Research** funding, multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional research teams are asked to respond. *Vice-chancellors for research on these campuses are, therefore, urged to distribute this memo widely among center directors, faculty, and researchers, to ensure participation from all interested groups.*

Primarily Education Projects

Primarily Education projects will be one-year or multi-year, have an institutional or multi-institutional focus, receive funds under the Enhancement or Research components of the Support Fund, and strive to elevate the quality of undergraduate science learning. **Primarily Education** projects may be led only by PIs from campuses without doctoral programs or with doctoral programs in fewer than three disciplines. In addition, **Primarily Education** requests may not be submitted by a doctoral-granting department. For those institutions eligible for and interested in **Primarily Education** projects, campus-based or multi-campus white papers should be developed.

To ensure that all who wish to respond have the opportunity to do so, please distribute this memorandum to all interested faculty members and staff. **All interested parties must submit white papers of five pages or less to Dr. Kerry Davidson, Deputy Commissioner for Sponsored Programs, by July 10, 2006, for consideration in the review process.**

The Appendix with an Attachment is included to provide further descriptions and information. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Kerry Davidson at (225) 342-4253 or via e-mail at davidson@laregents.org. The Board of Regents appreciates your assistance in shaping this special Initiative and your continued dedication to restoring and advancing scientific research and education in Louisiana following the hurricanes.

CC: Provosts
Institutional Research Officers
Research Faculty
Members, Board of Regents

Appendix

General Description and Information

The Post-Katrina Support Fund Initiative (P-KSFI)

The Post-Katrina Support Fund Initiative (P-KSFI)

General Information

◆ Scope and Funding

Over five years, from FY 2006-07 through 2010-11, an annual amount of approximately \$5 million is anticipated to be available for targeted scientific research and education. Funds are to be awarded on a competitive basis. All Louisiana institutions will be eligible to receive support through the P-KSFI. A component of the P-KSFI, the Enhancement for Severely Impacted Campuses (ESIP) Subprogram, will be available only in FY 2006-07; this Subprogram will provide affected campuses (see Attachment) monies to assist in recovery and thereby strengthen their P-KSFI proposals. A priority will be given to projects that leverage P-KSFI funds with federal, State, and private dollars, yielding impacts of significantly greater magnitude.

Among major research campuses especially, the goal of the P-KSFI is to build “towers of strength” in Louisiana scientific education and research by: (a) aiding in recovery of previously strong programs which were severely impacted by the hurricanes and their aftermath; and (b) providing already competitive and nationally recognized programs with resources to accelerate their missions—all directed toward twin goals of scientific excellence and economic development.

◆ Disciplinary Targets

The review process will consider three broadly defined disciplinary categories as prospective foci for the P-KSFI, one or more of which will receive P-KSFI support: **biological sciences**, **information technology**, and **materials science**. These disciplines were identified by both the ad hoc CDBG Task Force¹ and the BoRSF Planning Committee, groups comprised of representatives from institutions across the State, as areas sharing a variety of vital attributes, including significant continuing State investment, success in attracting federal support, potential for elevated national success, relevance for post-hurricane recovery and discovery, importance for economic development, and critical importance to faculty retention efforts. As the P-KSFI is further refined through white papers and the external review process, the foci for **Primarily Research** projects will be narrowed considerably, encouraging the development of critical masses in targeted areas. The disciplinary foci for **Primarily Education** projects, however, will remain broader, extending eligibility to the enhancement of general science programs at undergraduate levels, including the two-year campuses.

¹ The Task Force was convened to develop a request for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funding, provided through the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

◆ Eligibility

Though eligibility to participate in **Primarily Research** and **Primarily Education** projects will be respectively restricted, all Louisiana colleges and universities will be eligible to receive support through the P-KSFI.

◆ Interfacing of Initiatives

Some aspects of the P-KSFI may interface with the developing 2006 NSF EPSCoR RII proposal (see <http://laregents.org>) and the prospective CDBG funding. Complementary interfaces will be considered as respective initiatives develop.

Program Structure

◆ Comprehensiveness Leading to Convergence

In structure, the P-KSFI will be an all-inclusive program involving all aspects of the Support Fund: research and development, enhancement of infrastructure, endowment of chairs, and recruitment of superior graduate students. **Primarily Research** projects in particular may include a variety of elements selected from the different constitutional categories. Foci of the **Primarily Research** and **Primarily Education** projects combined will embrace all stages of the STEM pipeline, supporting training and research for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as the research efforts of junior and senior faculty and researchers. By extending eligibility to faculty at all ranks, the P-KSFI will permit wide-ranging flexibility of faculty participation. **For each potential project, these elements of flexibility and diversity, crucial to programmatic success, must be shown to converge into a cohesive, focused endeavor.**

◆ Types of Proposals

The P-KSFI will provide funding for two types of proposals: **Primarily Research** (with educational components) and **Primarily Education** (with research components). **Primarily Research** proposals must establish foundation(s) which lead to the development of national center(s) while promoting community and economic development. In FY 2006-07, approximately \$5.2 million will be available for these projects, including approximately \$1.2 million in a restricted ESIP supplement. It is anticipated that between one and three projects will be selected for funding. **Primarily Research** projects will be multi-year and may request funds for up to five years. Only projects that are both multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional will be eligible; leadership is expected to be undertaken by major research campuses.

The **Primarily Education** proposals will be directed toward developing and expanding learning in the sciences, strengthening the STEM pipeline at undergraduate levels, and addressing workforce and economic development issues. Approximately \$1.6 million in FY 2006-07 will

be available to these proposals, including approximately \$600,000 in a restricted ESIP supplement. It is anticipated that between five and ten projects will be selected for funding. **Primarily Education** projects may be single or multi-year, and may extend for up to five years. These projects may be within a single discipline or multi-disciplinary in focus, and may involve a single campus or multiple campuses representing more than one level (e.g., two-year, undergraduate, research). Leaders of these proposals, however, must be PIs from campuses with no doctoral programs or less than three doctoral programs.

◆ Preparation of White Papers

The **Primarily Research** white paper, to be submitted by multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional groups of researchers, should (a) note past and current investments; (b) summarize current resources and ongoing accomplishments; (c) demonstrate how P-KSFI dollars, leveraged with significant other investments, will elevate the trajectory of scientific research and education in targeted disciplines to progressively higher levels of national and international eminence; and (d) highlight past, current, and prospective partnerships among disciplines and institutions.

The **Primarily Education** white paper, campus-based or multi-campus, should (a) summarize the current status of programs to be improved; and (b) demonstrate how P-KSFI investments, when leveraged with other monies, will significantly elevate the quality of scientific education and/or research. **Both white papers must demonstrate an inextricable connection between P-KSFI investments, workforce issues, and improvement of the State's economy.**

Neither the **Primarily Research** nor the **Primarily Education** white paper should exceed five (5) pages in length. Submitting groups and institutions should include with their white papers the abbreviated curriculum vitae of key faculty members. **Note:** CVs are not included in the five-page limit.

◆ New Support Fund Initiatives

Prior to the hurricanes, the BoRSF Planning Committee had weighed whether to recommend that the Board launch several new Support Fund programs in the areas of multidisciplinary research, research for undergraduates, post docs, and systemic cross-program departmental enhancement. The P-KSFI review will help decide whether any of these initiatives should be inaugurated on a limited basis.

Campuses are invited to express views regarding each of these prospective programs. To do so, attach no more than a single page to the white paper being submitted.

◆ Enhancement for Severely Impacted Programs (ESIP) Subprogram

In FY 2006-07 only, the approximately \$1.8 million unspent in the FY 2005-06 Support Fund competitions will be used to supplement the P-KSFI, creating the Enhancement for Severely Impacted Programs (ESIP) Subprogram. The ESIP Subprogram will provide additional support

to campuses that sustained major damage and/or disruption due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Only institutions that were closed for a substantial period following either Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita will be eligible to request support through this Subprogram. ESIP monies may be requested only as a supplementary yet integral component of P-KSFI funding. Approximately \$1.2 million of ESIP monies will supplement **Primarily Research** projects and approximately \$600,000 will supplement **Primarily Education** projects.

Advisory Review

- ◆ Goal: Recommend approaches to P-KSFI investments which will maximize the attainment of research, educational, and economic development goals.

- ◆ Process: The review team will examine documentation of research and educational strengths in target disciplines provided by Louisiana institutions, multi-institutional groups, research team leaders, research faculty and others. The Review Team will also interview appropriate campus personnel and recommend approaches to investments which show promise of achieving stated goals within and/or among the three targeted disciplines (**biological sciences, information technology, and materials science**). Representatives from each higher education system, or teams formed across campuses and systems, will have an opportunity to interact with the review team to ensure that diverse needs are fairly represented and considered in the design of the P-KSFI.

ATTACHMENT

ENHANCEMENT OF SEVERELY IMPACTED PROGRAMS (ESIP)

FY 2006-07

Eligible Campuses

- * Delgado Community College
- * Dillard University
- * LSU Health Sciences Center
- * Loyola University New Orleans
- * McNeese State University
- * Nunez Community College
- * Our Lady of Holy Cross College
- * Southern University – New Orleans
- * SOWELA Technical Community College
- * Tulane Health Sciences Center
- * Tulane University
- * University of New Orleans
- * Xavier University of Louisiana