

Mary Erskine WIN Faculty Grants Program

Mary Erskine WIN Faculty Grants are available to individual women faculty members in the STEM disciplines at Boston University to support a variety of research activities. These awards are intended to enhance the professional networks of women faculty members, removing a barrier to women's accomplishments, and ultimately increasing the diversity of faculty in the science and engineering fields. Applicants must be female faculty members with tenured or tenure track appointments in science or engineering. A committee of senior faculty will review each application for the merit and innovative ideas of the proposed research and the extent to which the research is likely to expand the applicant's professional network.

Type I awards are small (up to \$3000) and quickly available sums of money designed to cover expenses such as travel, conference fees, child care, and hosting collaborators. Proposals for these awards will be accepted on a rolling basis.

Type II awards are larger awards (up to \$20,000) intended to seed new areas of research and foster new collaborations. The funds can be used for equipment, graduate student support, partial teaching release time, summer salary, travel to research sites, specialized child care to permit research activities, etc. Proposals for these awards will be accepted annually.

Type I:

The one page application includes:

- A synopsis of how the proposed activity will contribute to your career development and the enhancement of your professional network
- How much you are requesting (up to \$3,000)
- A brief CV of no more than 3 pages

There is no deadline for applications, as these awards are offered on a rolling basis.

Type II:

The application includes:

- A proposal of no more than 5 pages outlining the proposed work
- A budget explaining how the funds will be used
- A brief CV of no more than 3 pages
- Any background material or appendices necessary for review of the application

The application and additional materials should be submitted no later than March 1, 2009. Awards will be announced by March 30, 2009.

Please submit applications to WIN Program manager, Khalima Bolden kbolden@bu.edu and contact her with any questions or concerns. She can also be reached at 617 358-1364. A confirmation email will be sent upon receipt of your application.

Professor Mary Erskine (1946-2007) was a long time member of Boston University's Biology Department. She came to Boston University in 1985 as a research assistant professor and made the transition from a self-supporting non-tenure track professorship to a tenure track appointment in 1990 when she was appointed the Clare Boothe Luce Professor of Biology. Her research involved the application of a wide variety of behavioral, neural, and physiological techniques to questions of how an organism's behavior brings about changes in its own physiology. She was promoted to full professor in 1999. She was a founding member of the Women in Biology program at Boston University and she played a crucial role in the creation of Boston University Women in Science and Engineering (BU WISE). Dr. Erskine was a vigorous supporter of undergraduate research, and while director of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) from 2004-2007, she nearly doubled the program's budget. Her long time colleague and collaborator, Michael Baum, has noted that "as a senior woman in the biology department, she was a mentor and role model for many female students and postdoctoral fellows who sought to establish careers in science. She proved that women could have both a family and a successful career." Mary died at the age of 61 in December of 2007 following a long battle with breast cancer.