# Federal Cyber Service: Scholarship For Service (SFS) Program

## CEISARE Joint Workshop on Cyber Security

Timothy Fossum, Ph.D.

SFS Lead Program Director

Division of Undergraduate Education

National Science Foundation

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# SFS Program Overview

**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 Track

- 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
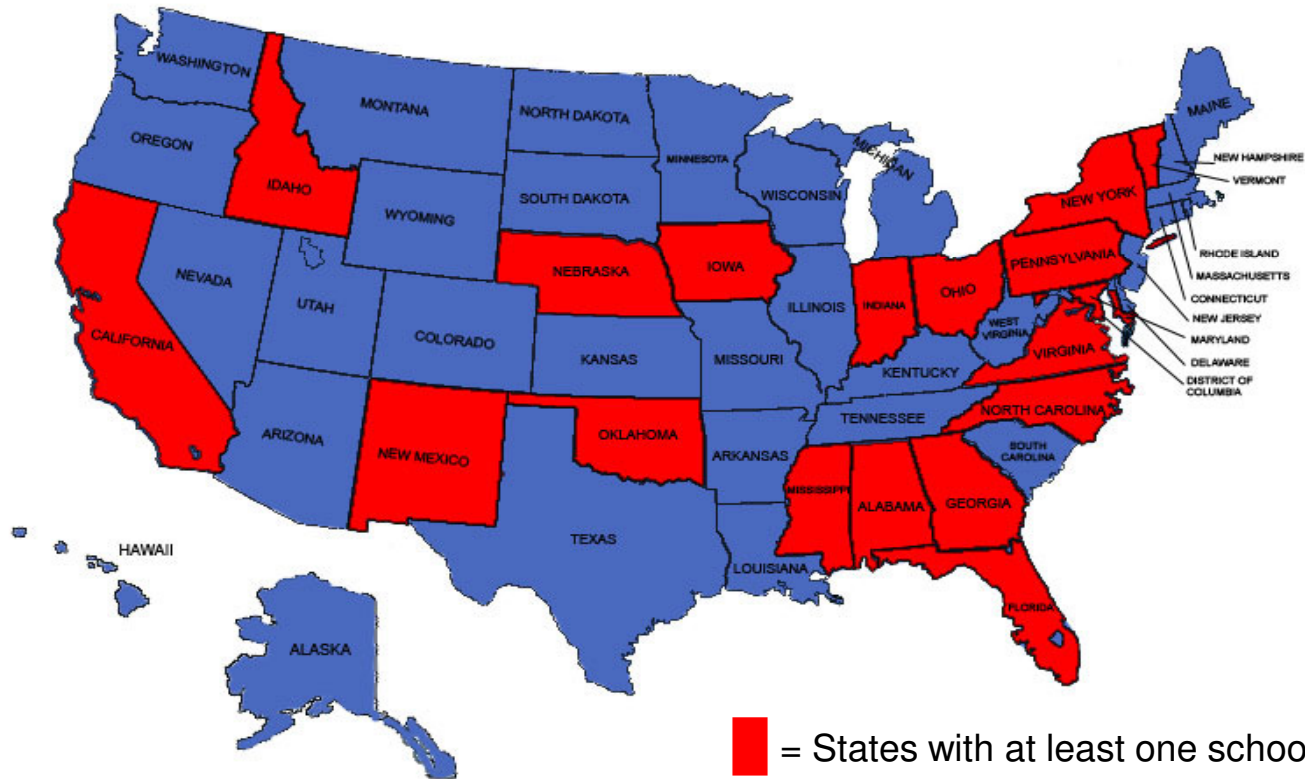
# SFS Participating Institutions

1. Air Force Institute of Technology
2. Auburn University
   Alabama State
   Tuskegee University
3. Carnegie Mellon University
4. Florida State University
5. George Washington University
   Marymount University
6. Georgia Institute of Technology
   Clark Atlanta University
   Morehouse College
   Spelman College
7. Idaho State University
8. Iowa State University
9. Johns Hopkins University
10. Mississippi Sate University
    Jackson State University
11. Naval Postgraduate School
12. New Mexico Institute of Mining & Tech
13. Norwich University
14. Polytechnic University
15. Purdue University
16. Stony Brook University
17. Syracuse University
18. University of California, Irvine
19. University of Idaho
20. University of Nebraska – Omaha
21. University of North Carolina – Charlotte
    North Carolina A&T State
22. University of Tulsa
23. University of Pittsburgh

# 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

# Broader Impacts

- 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**

# IASP

## 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

# SFS Contact Information

**Dr. Timothy Fossum, NSF**
SFS Program Officer (through August 21)
(703) 292-5141
**tfossum@nsf.gov**

**Kathy Roberson, OPM**
SFS Program Manager
(210) 805-2423 ext. 506
**kathy.roberson@opm.gov**

**Brenda Oldfield, DHS-NCSD**
Training and Education Director
(703) 235-5184
**brenda.oldfield@dhs.gov**