

ACADEMIC

NCWIT

ALLIANCE

NCWIT ACADEMIC ALLIANCE SEED FUND

The NCWIT Academic Alliance includes more than 70 computer science and IT departments across the country - including research universities, community colleges, women's colleges, and minority-serving institutions - dedicated to gender equity and institutional change in higher education computing and information technology.

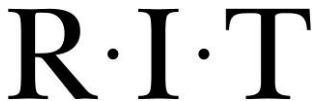
The NCWIT Academic Alliance Seed Fund provides members of NCWIT's Academic Alliance with startup funds (up to \$15,000 per project) to develop and implement initiatives for recruiting and retaining women in computing and information technology. Initial funding for the Seed Fund was provided by Microsoft Research. Following are descriptions of the second round's award-winning projects:



The University of Texas at Austin will use its \$10,000 Academic Alliance Seed Fund Award to create "PowerUp", a Saturday Morning Computer Science Club designed to provide a continuous outlet for engaging middle and high school students in computer science (CS) concepts and opening their minds to future CS careers. The project will build awareness about computer science, encourage students to take CS courses in high school, build an on-going relationship with students, and provide information about majoring in CS in college.



The Girl Empowerment and Mentoring (GEM) for Computing Project at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln (UNL) will inspire secondary school girls to study computing at the post-secondary level. The \$15,000 Academic Alliance Fund Award will provide 60-100 secondary school girls with the skills and interest for IT as well as "big sister" mentors from UNL's Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) Department. The secondary school girls will learn about CS topics and applications, education, and careers; the big sisters will gain valuable mentoring and leadership skills for their careers.



The Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) will use its \$15,000 award to launch a new program — Golisano Scholars — that establishes a two-week residential summer honors program geared to junior and senior high school women. The Scholars Program will introduce the women to computer science using a contextual approach and project-based involvement. Additionally, RIT will also leverage the success of its existing "Kids on Campus" program to target women in grades 10-12. Kids on Campus supports academic enrichment in science, math, and technology through innovative, IT-intensive activities.



"JUST BE" at Indiana University is an interactive road show where undergraduate and graduate students travel to Indiana K-12 schools to deliver a highly interactive and educational presentation aimed at dispelling gender and race-based myths on careers in information technology. Over the last three years, JUST BE has reached more than 1,500 school-age children and 250 college freshmen. "JUST BE: Making IT Real" will use its \$15,000 award to develop fun, interactive, team-based activities for high school students, incorporating basic computing concepts using sensors, robots and pervasive computing.

The deadline for round 3 of NCWIT Academic Alliance Seed Fund proposals is June 1, 2008. Information about the Seed Fund program, including proposal requirements, the review process, and how to become an eligible Academic Alliance member, is available at <http://www.ncwit.org>.