

Enhanced Mathematics, Computer, and Engineering Technology Scholarship (EMCETS) Project Executive Summary

Jacksonville State University (JSU) proposes a unique collaboration between the Technology Department, the Financial Aid Office, the Office of the Associate Vice-President for Academic and Student Affairs, and the Mathematical, Computing, and Information Sciences Department to be called the Enhanced Mathematics, Computer, and Engineering Technology Scholarship (EMCETS) Project. The objectives of this project are:

- 1) Recruitment of students in our service area who possess unusual aptitude in the area of Computer Science, Mathematics, or Technology but for financial reasons would forego or delay post-secondary education. Special consideration will be given to underrepresented groups such as women, minorities, and persons with disability.
- 2) Retention of those students so identified and enrolled, with special attention being given to overcoming the difficulties now present at certain attrition points or to successful degree completion.
- 3) Placement of participants, who successfully completed the degree program, in initial employment or further graduate study, and the continued involvement in their professional development.
- 4) Placement of participants, who successfully managed to get beyond the points of high attrition, in co-operative programs with certain employers in order to better prepare them to join the IT workforce.
- 5) Development of new alliances with relevant industries and the strengthening of existing co-operative agreements.

Thus, JSU wishes to be considered for funding the EMCETS Project by the NSF-CSEMS Scholars Program. The project presents a unique opportunity for low-income students in their program of study of the stated discipline to either receive their degree or to successfully complete certain stages in those programs identified as a point of unusually high attrition. A major component of the project will be an elaborate process of disseminating the scholarship competition, screening, and selecting the awardees. The scholarship awards will be based on specific predetermined criteria, followed by careful monitoring of the academic progress of awardees, and a thorough evaluation of the success of the program.