May 17, 2010

TO: NSF Applicants/Awardees

RE: NSF Implementation of the America COMPETES Act

At the time of proposal submission, The National Science Foundation (NSF) requires certification that the institution has a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) to undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers who will be supported by NSF to conduct research. Institutions and project directors are also responsible for verifying that such students have received RCR training.

SUNY Canton subscribes to CITI and their online RCR program which provides training targeting particular discipline categories. Those selected for the SUNY Canton community are:

Social & Behavorial Research,
Physical Science Research and
Engineering Research.
 Arts and Humanities Research and BioMedical Research will be added as needed.

Topics covered included research misconduct, data acquisition and management, responsible authorship and publication, peer review, responsible mentoring, conflicts of interest and commitment and collaborative science. ***If the research involves human subjects, the students must also successfully complete the CITI Human Subjects Basic Course for Social/Behavorial Research.*** SUNY Canton does not conduct research with animals but due to the Veterinary Science Program we fall under federal regulations regarding animals. The CITI program may be accessed by going to:

http://www.canton.edu/irb/
and clicking on "Take the CITI training".

It is the responsibility of the project director to ensure that students complete the RCR course, providing them with access instructions and informing them of the need to print their completion certificate. Students should always keep a copy of that certificate for their records and provide a copy to the project director for inclusion with appointment requests for Administrative Services. Before Administrative Services will appoint an undergraduate or graduate student or a post-doc to an NSF project account, documentation of successful completion (provided at the end of the CITI Course) of the appropriate RCR discipline modules and tests must be provided.