January 8, 2018

Chancellors and Deans,

As part of an ongoing strategic partnership with PNNL, the WSU Office of Research and the Graduate School are pleased to announce the call for applications for the second cohort of the Distinguished Graduate Research Program (DGRP). The DGRP is intended to increase the quality and quantity of STEM PhD. students across the WSU system, while providing an enhanced research experience by aligning WSU faculty, students, and PNNL researchers with the unique capabilities and research programs at the National Laboratory. We anticipate selecting ten to fifteen students each year for the program.

We are announcing today the call for applications to the second DGRP student cohort. These students will be drawn from new applicants admitted to a STEM PhD program at any of the WSU campuses, effective fall semester 2018. We are particularly interested in attracting outstanding students into the STEM fields that represent the existing and emerging areas of collaboration with PNNL – nuclear science and engineering; electric power and smart grid; biofuels and bio-products; catalysis; environmental, water and soil science and engineering; and other emerging areas of collaboration (e.g. computational, materials, medical/biological sciences, psychology, political science).

Since our various PhD programs have a variety of recruiting and admission timelines, we have set the priority deadline for applications to the DGRP as February 2, 2018. Interested faculty should identify a potential student applicant, PNNL collaborator, and complete the application. The program guidelines and application form are available on the Graduate School web site at https://gradschool.wsu.edu/pnnl/.

The DGRP targets a four-year graduate study in which the coursework stage (years one and two) is funded by a WSU college, department, faculty, or grant. Subsequent to the completion of the coursework the student support will be provided by a contract from PNNL for the stipend and benefits and a full, academic year tuition waiver provided by the WSU Graduate School. WSU and PNNL joint appointments may apply as either the WSU faculty, PNNL researcher, or both.

An essential requirement of the program is that the co-advisors from the two institutions must be willing to support the student in the proposed research topic. After selecting the students for this program, the PNNL and WSU points of contact will confirm the availability of research funding from the individual co-advisors before WSU sends formal letters of award to the selected students.

For the second cohort of DGRP students, the following timeline pertains:
Priority application: February 2, 2018
Award notification: February 28, 2018

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Wolcott (WSU) or Suresh Baskaran (PNNL) or email DGRP@wsu.edu