IUSE is a new NSF program that has replaced the STEM Talent Expansion Program (STEP); the Transforming Undergraduate Education in the Sciences (TUES) Program; and the Widening Implementation and Demonstration of Evidence-Based Reforms (WIDER) Program. Announcement of this program comes as the federal government considers the restructuring of STEM education in general; it is unclear what the long-term implications may be, or whether or not this program will be in place going forward. PLEASE NOTE: We expect that the broadness of this program announcement will lead to a highly competitive review process. Working closely with the GDO throughout the development of the proposal will increase your chances of success.

IUSE Objectives (from NSF webinar)
- Increase student retention in STEM
- Prepare students to participate in science for tomorrow
- Improve students’ STEM learning outcomes
- Generate knowledge on how students learn / effective practice in undergraduate classrooms
- Broaden participation

Unique IUSE Characteristics
- No solicitation will be issued (program description only)
- No budget limit (must be reasonable and appropriate to project)
- No project duration limit (maximum of three years recommended)

Project Requirements
Research-based AND research-generating approaches to:
- Understand/advance STEM learning
- Design, test, and study curricular change
- Disseminate and implement best practices
- Broaden participation of individuals and institutions in STEM fields

“Proposals should describe projects that build on available evidence and theory, and that will generate evidence and build knowledge.”

Proposal Elements (from NSF Grant Proposal Guide)
- Project Summary: One page that includes an overview, and separate statements on broader impacts and intellectual merit
- Project Description (15-page maximum): Created in collaboration with GDO based upon initial draft from PI and multiple iterations and edits
- References Cited (no page limit)
- Biographical Sketch(es): Two pages per individual; formatted according to NSF guidelines; GDO will draft based on CV(s)
- Budget: Developed in collaboration with GDO concurrent with development of project description
- Budget Narrative (three-page maximum): Developed by GDO based upon finalized budget
- Current and Pending Support: Listing of external and campus-based grants, contracts, etc.; completed by GDO with faculty input/review
- Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources: Generally drafted by GDO with faculty input/review
- Data Management Plan (two-page maximum): Describes how proposal conforms to NSF policy regarding dissemination and sharing of results

Routing Process
Interested faculty should notify the GDO and department chair/dean of intent to develop an IUSE proposal (or any external grant proposal) as early in the process as possible. All grant applications must be routed in draft form, accompanied by a SUNY Oneonta Grants and Contracts Routing/Approval Form, a minimum of five working days in advance of the deadline. The routing form is ‘signed off’ by the Principal Investigator, Department Chair, Dean, Provost, Director of Sponsored Programs, and VP for Finance and Administration.