Funding Opportunities for Cognitive Scientists through the Institute of Education Sciences

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The Institute of Education Sciences provides opportunities for researchers to bring their knowledge of learning and cognitive science to bear on education practice. This poster describes the FY 2009 Request for Applications (RFA) available through the National Center for Education Research and includes information about the requirements for proposed research projects.

In general, research funded by the Institute focuses on improving learning and academic achievement, reducing the achievement gap between high-performing and low-performing students, and increasing access to and opportunity for postsecondary education.

The Institute’s research program entitled “Cognition and Student Learning” may be of particular interest to the Cognitive Science Society membership. The purpose of the Cognition and Student Learning research program is to improve student learning by bringing recent advances in cognitive science to (1) identify underlying processes involved in reading, writing, mathematics skills, or science that are predictive of student achievement in the relevant domain; (2) develop interventions – instructional approaches, practices, and curriculum – for improving student learning; (3) establish the efficacy of existing interventions and approaches for improving student learning with efficacy or replication trials; and (4) develop measurement tools that can be used to improve student learning and achievement. The long-term outcome of this program will be an array of tools and strategies (e.g., instructional approaches, computer tutors) that are based on principles of learning and information processing gained from cognitive science and that have been documented to be efficacious for improving learning in education delivery settings.

Although cognitive science has, over the past 30 years, generated new and important fundamental knowledge on how people learn, most of these research principles have not been systematically incorporated into education practice, either at the level of instruction or through the creation of materials that support teaching and learning. The purpose of the Cognition and Student Learning research program is to establish a scientific foundation for education by building on these theoretical and empirical advances and applying them to education practice with the goal of improving students learning and academic achievements.

In addition to the Cognition and Student Learning program, the FY 2009 RFA includes a call for research proposals addressing the topics of reading and writing; mathematics and science; educational technology; and, social and behavioral research, among others.

A number of members of the Cognitive Science Society have received funding from the Institute of Education Sciences. This poster presentation is an opportunity for other Cognitive Science members to learn more about the research programs funded by the Institute.

Drs. O’Donnell and Doolittle will be available to discuss the IES research programs with potential applicants.