Program Summary
The South Dakota Space Grant Consortium (SDSGC) fellowship/scholarship stipend program invites applications from U.S. citizens for undergraduate and graduate student stipends for internship, research, and/or educational pursuits in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Research projects and internships must align with NASA’s mission and those of the SDSGC and its affiliates. All 2014/2015 awards are subject to the availability of FY2014 NASA funding.

- **Internship stipends** are provided in the range of up to $6,000 - $10,700 to support either 10-week summer or 16-week semester internships (respectively) at NASA Centers, other government agencies, or aerospace industry. If NASA or industry provides financial support to the student intern, the Space Grant stipend amount will be appropriately reduced from the dollar figures referenced above. In other words, internship stipends can be either: A) fully-funded by Space Grant, B) cooperatively-funded by Space Grant and NASA/industry, or C) fully-funded by NASA/industry. Specifics are determined individually after a student applies and is selected for an internship offer.

- **Research stipends** are provided at amounts up to $7,000 and will support undergraduate and graduate STEM research that aligns with NASA interests during the academic year and/or summer. Research stipend awardees are expected to produce a publication or poster.

- **Educational stipends** in the range of $1,000 - $2,500 will support STEM related education during the regular school year.

Important Dates
Application Receipt Deadline: **January 17, 2014, 11:59 p.m. MST.**
Award Notification: anticipated to be announced by March 4, 2014.

Eligibility and U.S. Citizenship Requirement
All applicants must be citizens of the United States. Stipends under this solicitation are available only to students attending South Dakota institutions of higher education during the award period. Women students and students from underrepresented groups are particularly encouraged to apply.

Application Instructions
Applications are to be submitted online. A complete application consists of the following five items in the following order:
1. A completed application form
2. Cover letter
3. Recommendation letter (may be submitted with student application or separately online by faculty advisor)
4. Resume
5. Transcripts of completed undergraduate and graduate work

1. **Application form** must be completed online at the following website: [https://sdmines.sdsmt.edu/cgi-bin/global/sg_update_app.cgi](https://sdmines.sdsmt.edu/cgi-bin/global/sg_update_app.cgi)

2. **Cover letter** must include reference to any education or experience the applicant may have in relation to NASA (note: a NASA connection is “not” required for the “educational stipends”), an explanation of how the applicant will use the stipend to assist in his/her education, and a career goal statement.

   ✓ For “educational stipends” the cover letter must not exceed **one (1) single-spaced, 12-font page**
   ✓ For “internship stipends” the cover letter must also include the location and brief description of the proposed NASA or aerospace industry internship and must not exceed **two (2) single-spaced, 12-font pages**.

   - Applicants should note that NASA and industry internships also have their own internship or employment application process separate from this application. Those agencies or...
employers must be contacted directly for their application materials (see page 3 for a list of some internship opportunity websites). Most internships provided by NASA and industry occur in the summer. Please note that USGS EROS internships are gained (and funded) through the regular employment application process available through the EROS Technical Support Services Contractor, SGT, Inc. or the US Geological Survey.

√ For “research stipends” the cover letter must also include a research project proposal that gives: A) a title and executive summary of the proposed research; B) a project description that includes: 1) the previous scientific work / relevant literature upon which the research will build, 2) specific goals and outcomes of the proposed research, 3) research activities that will accomplish the goals and produce the outcomes, 4) specific metrics that will be used to measure project success, and 5) a timeline for activities; and, if applicable, C) a brief explanation of how the proposed research aligns with NASA interests. Preference will be given to proposals that are focused on NASA-related research. The applicant may wish to consult the NASA website www.nasa.gov for information on NASA priority areas. For “research stipends” the cover letter must not exceed three (3) single-spaced, 12-font pages (excluding references).

3. Recommendation letter must come from a faculty advisor/mentor and include a recommendation as to the student’s qualifications for the Space Grant stipend. For students applying for a research stipend, the recommendation letter must come from the advisor/mentor supervising the research project. This recommendation must include an analysis of the applicant’s preparation and ability to perform the research, the nature of any prior experience with the applicant, and a clear statement indicating the role of the advisor in the applicant’s research project. Faculty who prefer to submit their recommendation letter separately rather than giving it to the student to include in his/her application must submit it online by 11:59 MST, January 17, 2014 according to instructions that will be sent to them in a system-generated email message.

4. Resume must include a summary of education, training, experience, and accomplishments.

5. Transcript must be the most recent copy of the applicant’s completed undergraduate and graduate work. An unofficial copy (e.g., from Web Advisor) or scanned photocopy of the transcript is sufficient.

Application Electronic Submission Instructions
- Application item 1 (the Application Form) is to be completed online at https://sdmines.sdsmt.edu/cgi-bin/global/sg_update_app.cgi

Applications items 2, 3, 4, and 5 must be uploaded as a single electronic file in PDF format online at the same website as the Application Form by 11:59 p.m. MST, January 17, 2014. (Students should not wait until the last day if their faculty recommendation letter is to be submitted separately by the faculty member. Online application site will close to further uploads at 11:59 p.m. MST, Jan. 17, 2014)

- Faculty that wish to submit their recommendation letter (item 3) separately rather than giving it to the student to include in their electronic application may do so by uploading the letter in PDF format directly to an online site that only the reviewers will be able to access. The recommendation letters are due by January 17, 2014, 11:59 p.m. MST. The URL address where the faculty member should upload his/her letter will be sent to that person in a system-generated email message immediately after the student enters that person’s email address on the Application Form.

Late or incomplete applications or applications containing more than a single electronic file (with the exception of faculty recommendation letters which may be submitted separately) will not be accepted.

Awards
Applications will be reviewed and award selections made by the SDSGC Management Team listed online at http://sdspacegrant.sdsmt.edu/contact.html. The purpose of both undergraduate and graduate fellowship/scholarship stipends is to reward past accomplishments and recognize potential future achievements. The stipends are made to individuals and are not to be considered compensation for employment. The student awardee should contact the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or a tax accountant to determine what needs to be reported on a tax return since Consortium personnel may not be qualified to answer all questions in this regard.
Reporting
At the end of the award period, the student must submit a brief report (an email message will suffice) to Tom Durkin <Thomas.Durkin@sdsmt.edu> at the Space Grant Headquarters Office summarizing his/her experience and accomplishments. Reports for students who received either “research” or “internship” stipends should be expanded to include specific details about their project. Additional survey/questionnaire documents will be sent periodically to student awardees via email by a private company associated with the National Space Grant Foundation hired by the SD Space Grant Consortium to conduct “longitudinal tracking” of students supported by Space Grant. NASA requires that we gather data on the education and employment history of current and former participants in our programs. The longitudinal tracking survey/questionnaire is an online document. The email message sent to the students will explain how to access it.

Inquiries
Questions concerning the preparation and submission of applications and the administration of this program should be addressed to Thomas Durkin, Deputy Director, SD Space Grant Consortium, SDSM&T, 501 E. Saint Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD 57701, Email: Thomas.Durkin@sdsmt.edu, Phone: 605-394-1975.

Students who have filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the period in which they would receive the Space Grant stipend may wish to visit with their institution’s Financial Aid office to determine what impact, if any, receiving a Space Grant stipend could have on their eligibility for certain types of Federal Student Aid (loans, work-study and certain grants). This visit is just a suggestion.

Acknowledgement
In any presentations or publications that the student develops as a result of his/her Space Grant-supported educational or research project, we ask that the student please acknowledge the support provided by the NASA South Dakota Space Grant Consortium.

Internship websites
The following websites provide information on specific internships and educational programs to which students can apply at NASA Centers, EROS, other government agencies, or industry. This includes companies available through South Dakota’s “Dakota Seeds” program. Many of these internships may not yet be open for application to summer 2014 programs. However, in the Space Grant application cover letter, students who are interested in NASA, other government, or aerospace industry internships should indicate to which of those internships they have applied, or are planning to apply when applications open. Please note that not all NASA internship opportunities are listed here.

- NASA One Stop Shopping Initiative (OSSI) [http://intern.nasa.gov/]
- NASA Langley Aerospace Research Student Scholars Program (LARSS) [http://www.nianet.org/larss/]
- Dakota Seeds (Internship Opportunities with Companies in South Dakota) [http://www.dakotaseeds.com]
- Davis/Bahcall Scholars Program [http://doe.sd.gov/secretary/scholarships.aspx]
- Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF) [http://www.sanfordlab.org/]